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THE

WHOLE

OF

THE EVIDENCE

GIVEN

ON THE TRIAL

OF THE

PETITION

OF

William Wilberforce Bird and Peter Moore,

AGAINST THE RETURN OF

Capt. Barlow and Nathaniel Jefferys,

AT THE

LAST GENERAL ELECTION.

COVENTRY:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY J. TURNER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, HIGH STREET.

1808.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
LIBRARY

COVENTRY

ELECTION COMMITTEE,

Met on Wednesday, February 23, 1803.

LIST OF THE COMMITTEE.

FRANCIS DICKENS, ESQ. *in the Chair.*

JOHN WM. EGERTON, ESQ.	RICHARD BENYON, ESQ.
MATTHEW RUSSEL, ESQ.	JOHN OSBORNE, ESQ.
RD. AINSLIE, ESQ	WILLIAM ADAMS, ESQ.
HON. R. RYDER.	HON H. WALPOLE, ESQ.
THOMAS JERVIS, ESQ.	SIR L. PALK, BART.
WILLIAM ORDE, ESQ.	HON. J. SIMPSON.

GEORGE TIERNEY, ESQ. } *Nominees.*
ED. LEE, ESQ. }

Mr. PIGOT *opens the Case.*

Mr. BENSON *produced the Qualification from the File.*

(Copy of it.)

Mr. JEFFERY'S *Qualification, as copied by the Clerk of the House of Commons.*

A CLEAR yearly rent charge of 300*l.* for my own life (arising out of freehold lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the parishes of St. James, St. Peter, and the Holy Trinity, in Shaston, in the county of Dorset, and Cann, St. Rumbold, Gillingham, and East Tour, in the said county of Dorset, the property of William Bryant, Esq. in the occupation of

his tenants of the annual value of 1000*l.* and upwards), conveyed to me by deed, bearing date June 18, 1802, the consideration whereof was 6000*l.* paid and secured to the said William Bryant, Esq. (the grantor) by my bond, bearing date 18th June 1802, payable in three months, viz. the 18th day of September in the penal sum of 12,000*l.* conditioned to be void on the payment of the said sum of 6000*l.* with lawful interest for the same.

The name of the witness to the deed and to the bond, is Charles Smith; and his place of abode is at No. 172 in the Strand, in the county of Middlesex.

NATH. JEFFERYS.

Dec. 20, 1802.

I believe you are clerk of the papers of this House?—I am.

Have you brought the original qualification delivered in by Mr. Jefferys when he took his seat in this House?—I have.

Produce it?—It is here.

Have you brought with you the rental or particular delivered in by Mr. Jefferys in consequence of the petition being presented?—It was delivered in, in compliance with a standing order of the House, a notice was given by the petitioners to Mr. Jefferys to produce a particular, and this is the paper containing it: they are the original papers delivered into my custody; and I cannot, without an order from the House, deliver them up.

Are these documents delivered in to the House of Commons as papers which, when delivered to you, you file?—Yes.

Then of course it becomes a record for the

inspection of the honourable the House of Commons at all times?—Yes.

Have you no order from the House to remove it from the file?—I have no order to keep it upon that file: I shall return it immediately.

VALE WHITWELL *called in and sworn.*

Were you one of the sheriffs of Coventry at the last election?—Yes.

Have you brought with you the original poll-book of that election?—I have.

In whose custody have they been since the election?—In mine.

Are they, to to the best of your knowledge and belief, in the same state in which they were when the poll closed?—Precisely.

Unaltered?—Unaltered. Here are also other documents; the agreement to poll by tallies.

CHARLES WILSON *called in and sworn.*

You appear here for Mr. Dunn?—I do.

Have you brought a deed from Mr. Dunn?—I have brought a deed; but we have no authority from any of the trustees, and we must request you not to press it. We have no authority from any of the parties.

Can you inform this honourable committee, of your own knowledge, by whose authority that deed was left with Mr. Dunn?—No; I cannot.

JAMES CHRISTIE *called in and sworn.*

Have you, at any time, had to dispose of any estates belonging to Mr. William Bryant?—Yes; I have.

You had the disposal of them, had you?—Yes; I had.

Whether, in point of fact, by any authority or without any authority, you did sell the estates belonging to Mr. Bryant?—I presume I sold them by the direction of Mr. William Bryant, and by the consent and concurrence of other persons, and by virtue of the power vested in myself as a joint trustee, for 13,990*l.*

When was it you sold them?—They were put up for public sale after the year 1794. I cannot exactly say——

Was it before the year 1801?—Certainly. I believe I can come precisely to the day. I think it was four or five days prior to the general election that preceded the last. I believe the election was to take place on the 12th of May, and I think it was on the 5th.

Do you know whether the estates so sold were the property of Mr. Bryant, in the county of Dorset?—All within the borough of Shaftsbury.

I don't know whether you are acquainted enough with the borough of Shaftsbury to tell me whether the parishes of St. James, St. Peter, and the Holy Trinity, are in Shaftsbury?—There are such a number of parishes: I cannot charge my memory.

All within the borough of Shaftsbury were sold?—They were.

You swear that positively, do you?—I must be clearly understood. Every thing was done within the limits of my power to effect that sale. I put them up to public sale, and Mr. Milne was declared the best bidder.

Do you swear positively, of your own knowledge, that all the estates of Mr. Bryant at Shaftsbury were sold?—I knocked down the

whole; and I was particularly cautious, because I knew every inch of it was an object to the purchaser: and, therefore, I included the whole by every word under which I could possibly comprize the property, considering the purchaser would be intitled to every inch of it.

Do you remember what became of them afterwards; whether they afterwards became the property of any body else besides Mr. Milne? —Not from my own knowledge.

Do you happen to know what became of the money that was paid, how it was appropriated? —There was 2600*l.* deposit, I received at the time of the sale. The remainder was to be paid in a limited time; but the articles being assigned to Mr. Paul Benfield, we were obliged to file a bill in chancery against Mr. Milne, who was the purchaser, and Mr. Benfield was a party to the bill.

Was the money, in fact, paid at last?—No; it was not paid by them at last.

Was it paid by any body?—It turned out afterwards that Mr. Benfield's part of the borough was to be sold; and, as I was a trustee for Mr. Bryant, I saw clearly that the property was of no value as a divided property, and I took the liberty of writing to the Treasury, stating, that it would ruin two Dukes of Bedford if they were to divide it. The Treasury saw the efficiency of my idea, and directed me to proceed upon it. I then proceeded to a second sale under the direction of the Treasury, who held the property by an extent from the Crown. One part was the property of Mr. Benfield; I apportioned the quantum between the parties.——When I sold to Colonel Wood, I sold the whole to Colonel Wood for 35,000*l.* reserving to ourselves the trustees

11,600*l.* odd for our proportion, which was, I believe, 1000*l* more than we should have received, if we had received it according to the original sale, and therefore I saw I was doing well for the trust delegated to me; and I believe the whole proportion is nearly paid.

How much is paid?—I believe the whole is paid within a 1000*l.*

Do you know how the money that was so received from Colonel Wood was appropriated?—There was 2600*l.* first of all received, and there was a second deposit of one per cent. from Colonel Wood, 350*l.* and then the greater part of the money was applied to the discharge of some other mortgages, but the exact amount I cannot say.

There was some difficulty, I believe, about carrying this sale into execution; was you a party to any bill in Chancery?—There was certainly a bill; two or three bills.

Have you had any intercourse lately with Mr. Bryant upon the subject of these estates?—Mr. Bryant called upon me a little while ago; about five or six weeks ago; a short time before I was obliged to go to Cheltenham for my health, and it was to complain that he thought the property improperly sold.

You have already told us, that you with others were a trustee for Mr. Bryant's creditors?—Yes.

Are you in possession of the deed of trust?—No; I am not. The deed of trust was left with the solicitor to the trust and Mr. Leake, who was employed by Mr. Heapy, who at first was the acting trustee. He promised Lord Romney and myself we should have no trouble in the business; he only wished his creditors

would partake of the trust: he did not appear to his commission, and the solicitor had the trust deed. He applied to us for payment, and his bill was 1400*l.* which was reduced by taxation to 1000*l.* We paid him that; and, upon payment of it, we got an order, I believe of the court, that he should deliver up all the papers to Mr. Dunn, the solicitor to Lord Romney, and I presume the deed is in his possession at this time.

Have you any objection to the trust-deed being produced to the Committee?—It is impossible for me to refuse any thing within the limits of my power.

Am I to understand that I have your consent for the perusal of it?—I can have no objection. As I have the honour of being a co-trustee with Lord Romney, I could have wished his consent.

Do you know Lord Romney's hand writing?—Yes; I do.

Will you peruse that? *(Shewing him the letter.)*—It is.

Does that confirm the propriety of your consenting?—It contains his directions, undoubtedly.

You are fortified in the propriety of giving that consent?—Certainly.

Do you know, in fact, whether the surplus was, after the payment of the incumbrances upon this estate of Mr. Bryant, sufficient to satisfy the creditors?—I wish I could answer you in the affirmative: I should be 10,500*l.* with the interest, in my pocket.

Whatever authority you had from Mr. Bryant, you had it in writing?—I conceive I had it in writing by virtue of the trust-deed.

I am speaking of authority given to you

by Mr. Bryant, previous to the execution of any deed from him to you?—None.

Then all you did, whatever it was, was as trustee in execution of his trust-deed?—With the concurrence of Mr. Bryant; because, at the moment I put up the premises, he was sitting in the front room in the house, while I went to look at the premises, and immediately after Mr. Milne was declared the best bidder. We adjourned to let him know it, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Heapy, Mr. Leake, and myself.

What you did, was it done by you as a trustee in execution of your trust under that deed, be it whatever it may?—I conceived I was fully authorized so to do.

You did not do any thing distinct from that in your character as auctioneer?—I don't know that it will require a discrimination. It was my duty, and it was my interest to obtain the utmost, because I had a very large stake upon the property: but abstracted from that, it is my known character that every nerve of me is exerted to promote the interest of my employers.

You have a perfect recollection, I dare say, of whatever sale you made?—I think I have.

Do you remember conveying to those vendees, as a trustee under that sale, and executing of course some regular conveyance to those persons?—No; I have not executed any conveyance: the matter has been in contest ever since. I have executed a memorandum of sale, a legal article on a stamp to Colonel Wood, and as the acting trustee under the direction of the Treasury, and with the consent of Mr. Paul Benfield, his assignees, his trustees, and as acting trustee for William Bryant, I did sell, for the sum of 36,000*l.*, the

the whole consolidated property belonging to these two gentlemen in the borough of Shaftsbury, and I received a deposit accordingly. Colonel Wood has frequently called upon me to execute the conveyance, and desired that I would prevail upon Mr. Bryant to join as the principal, though he had conveyed. I could not compel Mr. Bryant to join; that being the case, there the matter rested.

You don't recollect the date of this deed I suppose?—I do not.

From that time to this have you, as trustee, ever received a single shilling of rent?—No; I have not. Lest the Committee should think I have not done my duty in not receiving rents and profits, it was for the best reasons in the world. I conceive that the spirit of the property, and not the substance, was the object.

Have you had any warrant served upon you to produce the deed?—Yes; I received one yesterday.

An order of the House?—Yes.

CHARLES WILSON *called in again.*

You told the Committee, I think, that Mr. Dunn had sent the deed by you; but that you doubted the authority to produce it?—Yes.

You have it?—I have it here.

Mr. Christie, one of the trustees, desires you to produce it?—Mr. Bryant desires I will not.

The production of the deed objected to.—The Committee cleared.

The Committee resolved, that the witness be ordered to produce the deed in question.—The deed was accordingly produced.

WILLIAM LEAKE *called in and sworn.*

You was solicitor, I believe, to some trustees of Mr. William Bryant?—I was.

Did you prepare the trust deed?—I did.

Be so good as to open it, and see if that is the deed that you so prepared?—It is.

Whose signatures are these?—Several. The signature of William Bryant, and Charlotte his wife, John Griffith, Charles Charnock, and L. J. Ostell.

What were these two?—My clerks.

Do you know what has become of those two persons?—I have heard they died about a twelvemonth ago.

Were you in the room at the time it was executed?—I was.

Tell us from the deed, what is the nature of the conveyance: was it executed by Mr. Bryant?—Yes.

Read that part of it which conveys the estate?

[The question objected to.]

Did you hear that they were dead?—One left my service on account of the dangerous state of health in which he was: the other died shortly after. I had occasion to make enquiries after them upon other matters.

What reason have you to suppose they are dead?—In the course of my professional practice, it was frequently rendered necessary to enquire whether they were alive or dead at that time; other clerks that I had enquired; I did not enquire myself: but I was perfectly satisfied they were dead from the best evidence I could collect, not for this purpose but for other purposes, five or six years ago. One

died in St. Sepulchre's. Charnock was my managing clerk; the other was a mere writer.

As a professional man, should you have thought yourself justified in acting as if they were dead?—Certainly.

Which was your managing clerk?—Charnock.

Was he dangerously ill?—Yes. He had not closed his books. He left a little balance upon them to this hour.

You understand, by representation, they are both dead?—Yes.

WILLIAM HAMPTON *called in and sworn.*

Do you know Lewis John Ortell?—Yes.

Is he living?—To the best of my belief he is living. He was yesterday, for I saw him.

How do you know it is the same man?—I can almost swear to the hand writing; and I have heard him say he was clerk to Mr. Leake. I can tell you where he is to be found; he is at present clerk to Mr. Farlow, stationer, in Mitre Court, Fleet Street.

[A bill and decree in the court of chancery produced.]

JAMES CROSSFIELD *called in and sworn.*

What are you?—A solicitor.

State who were the parties to that bill?—The assignees of Mr. Heapy, a bankrupt, William Griffiths and James Christie, Lord Romney, Timothy Tyrrell, William Bryant, James Mills, and Paul Benfield.

Mr. Piggott. It was a bill filed by the assignees of Heapy, creditors of Mr. Bryant, and consequently had an interest in having these estates sold, which had been conveyed for the payment of Mr. Bryant's creditors.

Mr. Heapy became bankrupt, the assignees filed a bill, and the object of the suit was to compel the contract which the trustees had entered into with Mr. Mills, which Mr. Mills had assigned over to Mr. Benfield to have that contract carried into execution. Mr. Bryant was a party to the bill; it came on at the Rolls, and I was of course in it.

[The Committee cleared.]

The Committee determined that the decree should be given in evidence.

Are you a solicitor?—Yes.

For one of the parties in that proceeding in equity?—Neither.

You are in any office in the Court of Chancery?—No.

Then, I presume, the papers you produce are examined copies?—Yes.

Examined by yourself?—Yes.

With the rolls of the Court of Chancery?—No; in the report office. They are kept there.

Are the papers you produce under regular stamps?—Yes.

All you did, was to examine one with the other?—Yes.

It does not come to your knowledge whether that decree has been inrolled or not?—No, I dont know that.

In what you examined, was there any appearance against the decree passing?—No, it did not appear, the decree is dated in 1798.

When did you take the copy?—I took the copy this morning.

And there was no appearance of any caveat?—None.

[The decree read].

[The conveyance read, dated 22d November, 1794, between William Bryant, and Charlotte his wife; on the first part, Timothy Tyrrell, Esq. (a trustee of the legal estate of freehold, or inheritance, named by the said William Bryant, on his purchase of part of the hereditaments intended herein-after to be released); of the second part Sam. Duplock a trustee of the legal estate of freehold, or inheritance of the said William Bryant, on his purchase of other parts of the hereditaments intended herein after to be released; of the third part, Thomas Griffith, a judgment creditor of the said William Bryant; of the fourth part, Humphry Burr, another judgment creditor of the said William Bryant; of the fifth part, John Heapy, a mortgage creditor of the said William Bryant; of the sixth part, James Christie, a mortgage creditor of the said William Bryant; of the seventh part, Thomas Jones, a trustee for the said John Heapy, and also James Christie; of the eighth part, William Leake, a creditor of the said William Bryant; of the ninth part, the said John Heapy, James Christie, Humphry Burr, and the several other persons named in the second schedule, herein under written creditors of the said William Bryant; of the tenth part, the Right Hon. Charles Lord Romney, one of the creditors of the said William Bryant named in the second schedule, the said James Christie, and the rest of the said creditors of the eleventh part; and John Carrick of the twelfth part (he is not described.)

The granting part of the deed read.

Mr. Piggott.—The trusts are to sell for the payment of his creditors, and after they are paid, there is a trust for the surplus.—Mr.

Piggott called upon Mr. Serjeant Runnington to produce Mr. Jeffery's criminal deed of qualification, according to notice, which was refused.

CHARLES SMITH *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?—At No. 172, in the Strand.

In what situation of life are you?—I am a stationer.

Do you recollect witnessing any deed between Mr. William Bryant and Mr. Nathaniel Jeffery's?—Yes.

At what time of year, month, and dayof the month?—It was last year, I cannot speak of the day of the month.

What month was it in?—To the best of my recollection, it was the day on which the Parliament was dissolved.

Where was it?—At the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand.

Did you draw the deed?—No.

Did you ingross it?—I did not.

Did you witness it?—Yes.

You saw it executed? I saw the signature of Mr. Jeffery's and Mr. Bryant, I saw them write their names.

How did it happen that you witnessed it?—I was sent for by Mr. Jeffery's while I was in my shop; a person came to me from the Crown and Anchor from Mr. Jeffery's, I went, and he asked me to witness his signature.

And upon that you witnessed it?—Yes.

Was any other witness present?—There was a gentleman there, I don't know who he was.

Did he sign his name?—To the best of my

my knowledge he did not, he wrote the word "witness."

Recollect yourself, and tell me who that gentleman was?—I have no knoledge of him whatever.

How did it happen that he did not also sign his name as a witness?—I do not know.

Did you see any other paper or instrument signed besides the deed?—Two deeds, I saw two signatures.

That is Mr. Jefferys's and Mr. Bryant's?—Yes, I understood it to be a deed and bond.

Did you sign your name as a witness twice? Yes.

To two instruments?—Yes.

Mr. Bryant signed one, and Mr. Jeffery's the other?—Yes.

You did not see any money pass?—No.

And there was no other witness to either of the instrument besides yourself?—No.

And you had nothing at all to do with the previous preparation of the instruments?—No, I only saw them signed.

Do you know who drew these instruments? —No.

Do you know the contents of them?—No.

You were told nothing at all about what was in them?—No.

Nor the cause of their being executed?—No.

Upon having seen them so executed you went away?—I did.

It was the day Parliament was dissolved?—That was the day to the best of my recollection.

You say there was no other person signed the deed as the second witness but yourself?—Yes.

Mr. Pigot *Summoned up.*—Mr. Serjeant Runnington.

James Christie called in again.

Have you executed no conveyance or trust deed to any body of this property?—I have not.

Have you received any rent?—No.

Do you know of your own knowledge, whether Lord Romney or Mr. Heapy the other trustee have ever received any rent from any of the tenants?—Upon my word I should rather suppose not, but I can't take upon me to say, I can't swear that they did or did not.

Did any of the tenants, and if any, recollect the names of them, attorn to you or any of the trustees?—I believe I mentioned before that Mr. Heapy took upon him as the acting trustee, and he assured Lord Romney and myself that we should have no trouble; and therefore I took it for granted that Mr. Leake, who acted for the trustees, took care to have the proper steps taken; but in the first stage of the business I did not act at all, nor did I act till Mr. Heapy quitted the country.

The first deed bears date in the year 1794, after 1794 you was in the habit of corresponding with Mr. Bryant?—Certainly.

From that time I believe down to the present moment, more or less;—And he was with me a short time before I went out of town.

Look at that letter, it bears no date, but by the post mark it seems to be a letter in the year 1799?—It is certainly my writing.

Addressed by you to Mr. Bryant?—Yes.

At this time in the year 1799, was not Mr. Bryant himself in possession of all the property at Shaftesbury?—No, certainly he was not.

In this letter, I see in one part of it you write to Mr. Bryant that you think it proper a person therein named should be appointed receiver of the estate?—Mr. Ranger was agent for Lord Arundel, and I knew him to be a man of honor; but as the property had been very much neglected, and as the matters had come under my directions, I wished it might get into the hands of such a man as Mr. Ranger. I knew I was taking upon myself responsibility, and I was sure I could be equally responsible for him. Mr. Moody had been the agent, and I believe had received rents on the part of Mr. Bryant, but had never brought any of it to account; therefore I wished that Mr. Ranger should be appointed. At the same time I conceived that I had full powers to appoint him; but I wanted by no means to hurt the feelings of any man, and I wished to have the concurrence of all parties.

Has he received rent on the part of Mr. Bryant?—Originally on the part of Mr. Bryant, and I believe afterwards some rents for the trustees, but never accounted.

In that letter you mention a wish for that gentleman to be appointed a receiver?—I did.

Now as I cannot tell what the term "estates" relates to, permit me to ask what estates it does allude to?—To the property in the Borough of Shaftesbury.

At the time you wrote this letter, we cannot but conclude you thought it right, upon your part, to apply to Mr. Bryant to get his consent to have a receiver appointed?—There had been a receiver appointed by himself, Mr. Moody, who was afterwards continued by Mr. Heapy: he continued in the receipt of it for some years,

and when I wrote to him to render me an account, I could get no account: he said he had sent up one account, and could not make out another. I wished to put the affair into the hands of Mr. Ranger as a man of honor, and I certainly wished to have the concurrence of Mr. Bryant; and my reason was a very clear one, because I was determined whenever my trust should cease, that if Mr. Bryant had complained of my conduct by a bill in Chancery, I would have a warrant under his hand for what I did.

You have already said, if I took you right, that in 1799, Mr. Bryant was not in possession? —He certainly was not. As a man of business I was not capable of judging how far the trust deed was a legal one; and therefore as a professional gentleman had been paid for preparing it, I concluded he had taken the opinion of counsel and conveyancers to have it done properly, and there I concluded he had given us full power to sell.

Mr. Heapy whom you have named as one of the trustees, I believe afterwards absconded? —Yes he did.

Do you happen to know where Mr. Bryant has resided for the last two or three years?—I lament to say not in the most comfortable situation.

Where?—It is understood, I presume, by those before whom I am speaking—if you conceive I am bound to answer it I will, Chairman—certainly. He is in the Fleet Prison.

Was he there before June, 1802?—Certainly.

Has he been there ever since as far as you know?—I presume so.

Some questions have been asked you re-

specting a letter—the deed we have heard read, and therefore I have a right to remind you it conveys other estates besides those at Shaftesbury?—Yes.

The receiver was intended for all the estates which were so conveyed?—There is a small estate in Surry, and a small one in Sussex.

Therefore the authority of the receiver would have gone over all those estates?—Not that receiver, only the estates at Shaftesbury.

Do you know the incumbrances on the estates?—I do not know specifically, I only thought they were not much worth my inquiring into.

You have seen Mr. Bryant lately, before you left town five or six weeks ago?—Yes.

On what occasion did you happen to see him, was it referrable to any of the estates you are now speaking of?

One of the Committee. We cannot hear what Mr. Bryant said.

Who is now in possession of the rents and profits of that estate?—I believe it is a difficult thing to say. Colonel Wood was the purchaser; in consequence of having closed the treaty on the part of the treasury for Mr. Benfield's part, as well as that of Mr. Bryant, I gave him an order to request that all the tenants would attorn to him, and in consequence of being a little too hasty in endeavouring to get those rents I am afraid ——

Do you know who the tenants pay their rents to, or if they pay any?—I believe Mr. White the Solicitor for the Treasury, did receive some of the rents of the other parts; but with respect to Mr. Bryant's part they made attornment to me, and therefore no person could re-

ceive them but me, or some person authorized by me.

Do the tenants pay rent to any body?—I am afraid they do.

Do they pay Mr. Bryant any part?—I do not believe Mr. Bryant ever did receive but a very small sum from it.

Adjourned.

February 24th, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKINS, Esq. in the Chair.

The Committee heard Counsel on behalf of Mr. Jefferys, the sitting member, and after also hearing Counsel on both sides, upon the right of reply,

Resolved, That no reply will be admitted by the Counsel for the Petitioners, the Committee again being cleared,

Resolved, That the qualification delivered in by Nathaniel Jefferys, Esq. at the Table of the House of Commons, IS NOT SUCH as is required by the Statute of the 9th of Ann, Chap. 5th.

[It is read.]

MR. VALE WHITWELL *called in and sworn.*

Have you brought with you the agreement of the respective candidates to poll by tallies?—Yes.

Put it in the—Execution of the Agreement admitted.

You were under Sheriff of Coventry?—No, I am one of the Sheriffs.

You attended the whole of the poll?—I did.

You were assisted by a learned gentleman, a counsel?—I was.

Was you directed by him as to the manner of taking the votes, and the judgment you would give upon them?—I was.

The oaths of bribery were administered regularly?—Yes.

Was the whole of the election conducted as it ought to be?—It was conducted with the greatest peace and order beyond any former example, and to the satisfaction of all parties.

The pllo was in truth a scrutiny of votes?—It was.

All the parish officers in the city attended I believe?—They did.

This paper is signed by two names; were you there when the agreement was presented and signed?—I was present, but did not see it signed.

Mr. Morris was the counsel I believe?—Yes.

Look at the outvoters, and see if that is a correct statement of the number of in votes, and the number of out votes, whether it is generally correct?—They agree exactly.

EDWARD INGE *called in and sworn.*

Are you the town clerk of Coventry?—I am.

Have you brought with you the stamped inrolment of the Freemen of Coventry?—I have.

Produce it, and he produces also the minutes and proceedings of the counsel of Sir Thomas White's charity for the last forty years.

There was, I see, by the copy I have, 1500l. left by Sir Thomas White?—Yes.

That was afterwards increased to a much larger sum, and was subsequently the cause of a suit of Chancery?—It was.

The decree of which made it necessary to

have the deed drawn, which bears date the 12th and 13th of Feb. 1724?—It was.

That deed also points out the manner of distribution to be appointed by the corporation, and also the periods at which those distributions should take place, that is the purport of the deed?—It is.

Are these the words that the persons to have the same should be yearly elected, and chosen by the mayor and his brethren for the time being, without any partiality on the 10th day of March, or within a quarter of a year afterwards?—Yes, it is perfectly correct.

It was to save trouble he agreed to have extracts made of facts to be admitted.

[The Committee cleared.]

Resolved that the electors who polled for Nathaniel Jefferys, Esq. may be permitted to be heard by themselves or counsel, on behalf of their right to vote at the late election for the city of Coventry.

L. J. M. TRIST, ESQ. *called in and sworn.*

Do you remember being with M. Jefferys in August last, after his return from the Coventry election?—I do.

Do you recollect the day of the month?—Perfectly well?—The 13th of August.

Do you recollect also the conversation upon the subject of the Coventry election?—I do

Was any body else in company besides Mr. Jefferys and yourself?—A lady and a gentleman, Mr. Blogg was the gentleman.

State that conversation?—Being immediately after the Coventry election, I proposed as a toast, THE CORPORATION. Mr. Jefferys replied, "damn them, they are no friends of mine, and not worth our notice, they are a set of black-

guards all together, and there is not a gentleman amongst them. Mr. Jefferys expressed this with tears in his eyes. I gave the conversation a different turn; still Mr. Jefferys persisted to explain. He said that upon all late occasions he had stood forth their champion, that their interest had been hawked about and offered to every body that would listen to it, and by every body refused; that he was then called upon, and sent for express, and as they knew his distressed situation, was very much surprised when he got to Coventry, that the corporation sent him a message by their town clerk, Mr. Inge, to say, that they would not proceed with their interest in his favour until he had subscribed 1500l. or guineas, the same as Captain Barlow had done. Upon a moment's reflection he requested the town clerk to withdraw, that he might consult with his friend, Mr. Dickens, as to the path he should pursue. Says Mr. Jefferys, I know I have but one path to follow, and to that I must submit, because it was better to be in Parliament than in prison; however, for the sake of appearances, I consulted with Mr. Dickens, when it was determined that 1000l. should be offered instead of 1500l. The answer was accordingly sent to that effect, and accepted by the corporation, on condition that the money should be paid down. Mr. Jefferys expressed upon that occasion to his friend Mr. Dickens his surprise, not being in the least prepared for such an event; however, they agreed together that if Mr. Jefferys would give his note for 500l. in favour of Mr. Dickens, and the corporation take his responsibility for the other 500l. that he, Mr. Dickens, would procure the 500l. mentioned. The corporation did

accept of it, and Mr. Dickens got the money at the bankers, Mr. Wyatt's. He then enumerated some further expence, such as 400l. or guineas, for the half of his chairing, and 300l. for his travelling expences, ribbons, and expences at the inn, &c. and 200l. which the corporation had refused paying to his counsel, Mr. Knowlys, which he had taken upon himself to pay; and had sent a note for that purpose, to that amount to Coventry, and expected the money on his return to London; that was the whole that passed, relative to the expences of the election.

Do you remember any further conversation as to their behaviour to him, or his to them, or any resolution he told you he had formed?—He said he had got the place by honour, and would now shew them the odd trick.

Was Mr. Blogg present during the whole of this conversation?—Yes he was.

Was any of the corporation present at that time?—No, nobody present.

Mr. Blogg was not one of the corporation?—No.

MR. WM. BLOGG *called in and sworn.*

What are you?—An architect.

Are you acquainted with Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Trist?—Yes.

Do you recollect meeting Mr. Jefferys at Mr. Trist's house, in the month of August last?—I do, the 13th.

Who else was there?—Mr. Trist myself, and I believe a lady at the table.

Do you recollect any thing of any conversation that passed respecting the Coventry election?—Yes.

Relate what Mr. Jefferys said, as near as you

can recollect?—After dinner the conversation turned upon the Coventry election, and Mr. Trist proposed a bumper toast to Mr. Jefferys's friends, the corporation:—Mr. Jefferys immediately said, damn them, they are no friends of mine; they are a set of blackguards altogether, there is not a gentleman amongst them, in words at least so delicate as is made use of. The conversation then had different turns. Mr. Jeffery's persisted in the conversation, and told us that having stood long the champion of the corporation, and fought the battles of the town upon all occasions, that he expected to have been brought in for nothing; instead of which, when he got to Coventry, having been sent for express, knowing his distressed situation as they did, that he would have been brought in for nothing, and was very much surprised to receive a message from the corporation, through the medium of the town clerk, to say they would not support him unless he would subscribe and pay his 1500l. the same as Captain Barlow had done. Mr. Jefferys said he was very much alarmed at that knowing his inability, and requested Mr. Inge to leave the room, that he might consult his friend Mr. Dickens. It was then agreed between Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Dickens, to offer the corporation 1000l. a message came from the corporation saying they would accept that sum, provided the money was paid; upon this Mr. Jefferys said he did not know what to do, it was aut Cæsar aut Nullus; Mr. Dickens then said he would procure Mr Jeffery's 500l. by a bill payable in Mr. Dickens's favour, which he would get from some bankers in Coventry, Woodcock or Wyatt, I cannot say which, provided the corporation would

take Mr. Jefferys's responsibility for the other, which I understood was accepted.

Did Mr. Jefferys say any thing with respect to the general expences of the election?—I think I observed to him at that time it cost him but 1000l. and from the subscriptions he had from different friends, he must be money in pocket; it would be more than sufficient to defray that.

What did he say upon that?—He said I was very much mistaken.

You made that observation yourself?—He said he had received 100l. from Sir Robert Peele, and this gentleman and that gentleman, and the other had subscribed; and I said the subscription would more than defray the 1000l. He said no, that it cost him 2000l. that the 1000 he had received was not more than sufficient to defray the common expences: 1000l. or guineas to the corporation, and 400l. his half of the chairing, 200 guineas his counsel, Mr. Knowlys, 300 guineas his travelling expences, at the inn, &c.

Do you recollect any further observations?—He said he had got the election by honour, and now he would shew them the odd trick.

Did he explain what he meant by that?—That if they attempted to oppose him he would set them together by the ears. That the corporation had acted in that shameful manner that nobody would go near Coventry again.

Adjourned.

February the 25th, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

JOHN WOODCOCK *called in and sworn.*

You are I understand a banker at Coventry?—I am.

In partnership with Mr. Little?—Yes.

You are also in the profession of the law I understand?—Yes.

You are, I believe, also a master of the Drapers Company?—I was in July, 1802.

To your own knowledge, did any communication take place between the drapers company and the corporation of Coventry, relative to the expected election?—I believe there did in the month of April, but I was confined to my bed.

Of your own knowledge?—I cannot say.

To your knowledge did any communication take place between the drapers company and the corporation of Coventry, relative to the intended election?—I most certainly believe there did; but I was confined to my bed for six weeks with a Rheumatic fever: people came and told me, but I never attended any meeting whatever of the drapers company.

Do you mean that any body who had any authority from either of those bodies was the person?—I cannot tell.

Had you as the master, I don't ask you what the communication was, but had you any communication with the clerk of the company?—Question objected to.

While Mr. Woodcock was confined to his room, whether any person belonging to the

company came to him for his authority respecting the election, as master?—I don't just understand what is meant by authority; the clerk to the company came to me, Mr. Troughton, mentioned the subject of the election, and also, I think, but I will not be positive, whether it was not as to the propriety of the company meeting to consider of the solicitation of Sir Robert Peele, to offer himself as a candidate. I believe that was the purport of the conversation.

Be so good as mention the time?—I think in the month of April or the beginning of May, I cannot positively say which.

Last year?—Yes.

Were any similar application made to you, during the months of June and July?—None at all, from any member of the drapers company: I have no memorandum of the time, for I was unable to write.

How soon did you know of Captain Barlow becoming a candidate for Coventry?—Captain Barlow, I think, on the Friday evening preceding the commencement of the poll, which was on the next Friday, called upon me respecting the representation of Coventry.

What day of the month?—I think the second day of July, the poll commenced on the eighth, and this was the Friday preceding.

It was the first intimation you had of Captain Barlow becoming a candidate?—It was.

Did you before that know any application was to be made by the drapers company to Captain Barlow to become a candidate?—I did not.

Do you know whether any application was made to Captain Barlow, from any other

quarter, to your own knowledge?—I do not, I did not make any application.

Do you know whether the drapers company co-operated with the corporation, in support of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys in their election?—I most certainly believe they did.

What I mean by co-operation is, that the individual members of each body exerted themselves as much as they could in favour of Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—I knew of no communication between the two bodies.

You perhaps don't know of any agreement being entered into, verbal or otherwise, between the drapers company and the corporation, respecting the election?—None that I know.

Were any subscriptions entered into for the purpose of the election?—I believe there were.

Were those subscriptions received at your banking house, of your own knowledge?—I never would have any banking election account; as to subscriptions I wish you would let me understand what you mean, whether you mean the individual subscriptions in the town, or whether you mean the money which the candidates were willing and did advance themselves. I paid a subscription myself.

Did you receive any subscriptions at your house?—No, as a banker I did not.

Did you receive any subscriptions?—There was paid into my hands five hundred pounds by Mr. Dickens.

What is Mr. Dickens?—He is an attorney in Coventry.

On whose account?—I imagined it to be on account of Mr. Jefferys, but he did not say so.

What passed then to inform you it was from

Mr. Jefferys, when the money was paid?—He did not say it was from Mr. Jefferys, I believed it to come from him. When Mr. Dickens brought it, he said here is 500l. I imagined it was Mr. Jefferys's. I would open no account whatsoever respecting the election; if you chuse to leave it here, I will put it in a purse and lay it by, subject to call of those gentlemen who shall conduct the election. I did put it by; I understood it to be election money.

Was that 500l. the only sum you received for the purpose, in your own understanding of the election, to your knowledge?—I discounted as a banker two bills for Captain Barlow.

At the same, or different times?- One on the 12th of July I believe.

Refers to a memorandum on Monday the 12th July for 1000l.—The 2d was on the 23d, of July for 500l. after the election was over.

Do you mean to say that those were for the same purpose as the 500l. paid for Mr. Jeffery's?—I have no doubt of it.

Do you know it?—I discounted the bills as a banker, I believe they were afterwards applied to election purposes.

Do you know that they were so applied?—I cannot say as to the application.

When did the election end?—It began the eighth, and ended on the sixteenth or seventeenth.

Do I understand you that they were or were not applied for the purposes of the election, or to the use of those gentlemen who conducted it?—I believe it was for the purposes of the election.

Have you any doubt about it?—I have no doubt about it.

I understand you are in the profession of the law.—Yes.

You must know the difference between knowledge and belief?—I do certainly know that money was applied for election purposes and for the chairing.

Were there any other sums of money paid into your house, by any other body or individual for that purpose?—I paid my own subscription to the same fund, I mean for the same purposes.

How, individually from your own pocket?—Yes.

Do you recollect any other?—I believe there was one other sum paid, and that sum I believe came from the corporation.

Have you any doubt about that fact?—I can have none.

May I ask you the amount of that sum?—500l.

Do you recollect any other sum from any other body?—No.

Was there any money paid in by the drapers company on that account?—Not a shilling, they are too poor to subscribe a sixpence.

What sum did you individually pay?—The subscription of myself and a friend amounted to 500l.

Have you any objection to tell me the name of that friend?—If the Committee insists upon it, otherwise I should wish not.

I should wish you, to do it if you have no particular objection?—It is certainly out of my pocket.

The drapers company paid nothing?—Not a farthing.

And you tell us, though a friend was to pay

a part of that 500l. yet that sum is out of your pocket?—Yes, it was my friend Mr. Little.

Mr. Little, your partner, then was the only person you expected to remunerate you any part of that 500l.?—Exactly.

Is Mr. Little a member of the drapers company, of which you was the master?—He is, but he did not, nor I, in the light of the drapers company subscribe that money; I subscribed it as he did, individually. The drapers company owe me money now, as Mr. Bird knows.

In the situation in which you stood at that time, was it usual for you to advance money for them upon any emergency?—I wish the committee to understand, I have not directly, or indirectly, for the purposes of the election advanced a guinea for the drapers company. As a company I have certainly advanced several sums of money, no doubt of it, not myself alone, I mean me and my partner.

If I understand you, you just now said neither you or your partner, directly or indirectly, advanced any money for the drapers company, for the purposes of the election as a company?—Yes.

What do you mean by that?—I understood the drift of your question to be, that myself and my partner had advanced money on account of the election,—what we advanced was individually.

The 500l. the last sum paid in by Captain Barlow, was after the election?—Yes.

Do you happen to know whether the members of the drapers company canvassed for Captain Barlow and Mr. Jeffery's?—I have no doubt but what they did.

They were understood as joint interests, I be-

lieve by you?—I don't know, their address appeared separate: I never saw Mr. Jefferys at all, till he joined Captain Barlow and myself and some other friends, going to the booth the morning the poll began.

They canvassed separate, and they advertised separate?—There was no public canvass at all; they advertised in the Coventry paper upon the Sunday. Mr. Jefferys arrived the Saturday before, I saw him in his carriage from my parlour window, and I did not see him at all till I saw him going to the hall on the Monday morning.

Then I am to understand they stood separately, and not on the same joint interest?—What the gentlemen themselves meant, I cannot tell, but the united interest of both parties were exerted in their favor.

Do you mean the united interest of the drapers company and the corporation?—They both exerted themselves certainly, in favour of Captain Barlow and Mr. Jeffery's.

The money you have already stated, was paid for election purposes, I wish to know how it was appropriated and to whom paid?—I have no account of the application of that money at all.

To whom did it go from your hands?—I cannot say.

You had a notice to produce your books?—Yes, but I had no account of them, except of the bills discounted.

I ask you how that money was appropriated which you received for election purposes, you have no memorandum and you don't know what became of it?—I have no memorandum, that money was paid in a purse. Those gentlemen who had the conducting of the election

for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys had access to that purse; when they took any out they put a memorandum in the purse: when the election was over I sent the memorandums and the purse to *some of the* gentlemen, *they found it right*, and there it ended.

Then you know so much of the disposition of it?—I do, I believe it was applied for the purposes of the election.

In whose custody was that purse till it was emptied? I don't know that the purse is empty now. The purse lay in a drawer in my house.

It was in your custody?—Yes.

You say when the election was over the gentlemen examined it, and found it was right?—I sent it to some of the gentlemen that had the management of the election.

Do you recollect to whom?—Upon my oath I cannot expressly say, but I believe it was to Mr. Sharpe.

Who is Mr. Sharpe?—Mr. Sharp is a wholesale hat manufacturer I think.

A member of the drapers company?—No.

Nor was a member of the corporation:—No.

Is he a freeman?—I believe he is a freeman, as far as my knowledge extends, I have always considered him as such.

You have stated that the gentleman who had access left memorandums for the sums they took?—Yes.

Who were these gentlemen?—I believe this very Mr. Sharpe had money several times out of it.

Do you know he had?—I know he had.

Any body else that you recollect?—I myself paid money, out of it I cannot say to what amount it was.

At what time of the election might you pay

money out of it?—I think it was after the close of the election, about 15 or 16l. but which I cannot say.

Do you recollect any body else?—I do not recollect any body else, in my presence having any.

Could any body get it out without your privity?—Yes.

Who had access to it without your privity?—My clerk.

Is he in town?—No.

Which clerk was it, what is his name?—I believe both the clerks, Mr. Bawcutt and Mr. Nutt.

They had the care of the purse?—It lay in a drawer

Who had the care of it?—I considered myself as having the care of it. It lay in an open drawer, where my clerks had access to it.

Without asking for it?—No, not without asking for it.

By what authority did your clerks take money out of it?—By my authority.

Then all those sums of money which they took, be they what they might, they disposed of for you?—Under my authority they did.

And still for the purposes of the election?—They were.

When I used the word purposes, I left out the word joint purposes, the joint purposes of Mr. Jefferys and Captain Barlow?—I don't know how the expences were to be divided.

Were they paid on account of both of them?—No doubt of it.

You have stated that you yourself received money taken out of this purse; that your clerks paid money taken out of this purse, and that Mr. Sharpe paid money taken out of this

purse; do you remember any body else that had money taken out of this purse, for election purposes? Yes Mr. Inge, the town clerk.

Do you recollect whether he had frequent occasions to apply to the purse?—I do not believe he was there more than once to my knowledge.

Do you remember any other person who had money?—I do not, none occurs to me now.

The money when paid to you, you described to have been put into an open drawer, that is an unusual way of bankers keeping an account?—Yes, but I would not open a banking account for the purpose of the election, they might have taken it any where they pleased if they had not chose to let it remain in the state it was.

Do you happen to know whether any committees sat for the purpose of promoting the election of these gentlemen?—There were five or six gentlemen who sat to conduct the concerns of it.

Where did they sit?—They sat generally at the Goal Hall or County Hall, it is the same thing.

Was that the only committee do you know, for the purpose of promoting the interest of these gentlemen?—All that I know of.

Don't you know of a committee that sat at Saint Mary's Hall?—None to my knowledge.

Who composed the committee of the five or six gentlemen who sat at the Goal Hall?—Mr. Sharp, Mr. Ewbank, Mr. Inge, the Town Clerk, myself, Mr. Dickens, and a Mr. Whitwell, the two latter scarcely ever attended.

What is Mr. Whitwell, does he hold any office in the corporation?—He is a member of the corporation, I believe he is an alderman.

Have you any doubt about it?—No.

What is Mr. Dickens?—An attorney.

Do you mean the same person who brought you the five hundred guineas for Mr. Jefferys?—The same person.

Have you any doubt about the fact that it was paid on account of Mr. Jefferys?—I do understand it to be such, but Mr. Dickens did not express it as such.

I wish you to recollect yourself again, did you never attend at St. Mary's Hall?—I went in and out of St. Mary's Hall, it was an open room, which all the town and all the people in the interest of the party had access to; there was a Mr. Payne sat there, and made out an account of the residence of the out-votes, in order for their being canvassed.

I understood you formerly to have said that at Saint Mary's Hall, to your knowledge there was no committee?—I do not state that it was a committee, Mr. Payne sat there as an individual, all the people of the party had common access, there were thirty or forty people in the room giving Mr. Payne an account where the voters lived.

Was that for the same purpose as those who sat at the Goal Hall, for promoting the election?—Mr. Payne, as a professional man sat there for the purpose of taking a list of the out-voters, and several people were sent out to canvass them.

They were there to promote the same purposes?—Yes.

Do you remember a gentleman of the name of Sinclair, a Captain Sinclair, who appeared there?—There was a gentleman of that name with Captain Barlow, I think he came to him the Tuesday before the poll began, the poll

began on the Thursday; he was not Captain Sinclair, it was a Mr. Sinclair.

I mean a gentleman supposed to be a relation of Captain Barlow's?—It was a Mr. Sinclair, the first time I saw him was on the Tuesday evening.

Did he continue all the time through the poll?—Yes, he was out perhaps for a day or two backwards and forwards, but he generally attended.

Was he pretty active during the election?—From what I saw of him he was as active as he could be.

Do you recollect any particular acts that were done by him?—None.

Returning thanks or speaking to any voters, doing any thing of that sort?—I have no doubt he must speak to voters, because I saw him with them; but he did not address any voters; I saw him doing what one friend would do for another at an election.

I would ask you whether during the election, to your knowledge, members of the corporation and members of the drapers company, did not continually consult for the purposes of the election?—I have seen members of the corporation, and members of the drapers company, conversing together several times during the election.

Perhaps you have been enough in their confidence to know whether it was such a communication as men have when they are pursuing one object?—No doubt of it.

Did the candidates communicate with the committee?—I never saw either of the candidates with the Committee, Captain Barlow very frequently came to the room, where his friends were before business began, and we

walked with him to the Hustings, I never saw him there at any other part of the day, I never saw Mr. Jefferys at all in the room, during the election; we walked to the Hustings, and Mr. Jefferys generally joined us.

Do you happen to know whether, though he did not come to the committee, he met them at the White-Bear, the King's-Head, or any other house?—I don't know that Captain Barlow met them, but they dined either at one house or the other; and after dinner they called their bill and paid their reckoning.

After the poll of each day?—Yes, I dined with Captain Barlow several days myself, and paid my reckoning.

Do you recollect who were the company on those days?—Sometimes there were very few, but I really cannot recollect every person that dined there; there were sometimes ten or a dozen, and sometimes more.

Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were generally there?—Mr. Jefferys was there several days, I did not myself dine there every day, and therefore I can only speak to those days that I dined myself; I think Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were both there every day that I dined there, except one day, when Capt. Barlow was ill.

Do you remember whether Sinclaire was of the party?—He was generally when I was there, he was not there every day; I believe, he was out one day, but I will not positively swear it, he generally dined there.

You do not recollect the company?—No.

You cannot say whether they were a few select friends or not?—They were certainly select friends.

They dined at the one ho[illegible]

alternately?—Yes, but I believe they might dine two days at one house.

Do you recollect Mr. Payne?—Yes, I have mentioned Mr. Payne.

Mr. Dickens was there?—Yes.

Do you remember Mr. Wilmot?—I saw him there one day, he was a friend to the party, and he came to help to check off some books.

I am now speaking of the Goal Hall?—I never saw Mr. Wilmot at the Goal Hall.

You have named Mr. Carter?—I have not named him as a Committee man, I don't know that I saw Mr. Carter during the whole election in the committee room.

Do you remember seeing Mr. Crump?—I saw him in the booth, I never saw him any length of time together, if he was, it was only going from the booth with a message, but he never remained there.

Do you remember Mr. Williamson?—I don't think I saw Mr. Williamson in the room at the Goal Hall, during the election.

Was he at the other house?—I did see Mr. Williamson once, and once only at the Goal Hall, to the best of my recollection.

Mr. Williamson is an alderman I understand?—He is.

Do you remember Mr. Howlett attending at either?—I saw Mr. Howlett once or twice at Saint Mary's Hall, twice or more, I cannot recollect every time.

Is Mr. Howlett also an alderman?—He is.

Do you remember seeing Mr. Mullis there?—I make no doubt he was there, but I cannot charge my memory with having seen him there.

Was Mr. Mullis the mayor at that time?—Yes he was certainly; I am confident I did not see Mr. Mullis in the Goal Hall.

You have seen him at the other Hall where Mr. Payne sat?—I think I have seen him there once or twice

Did you see Mr. Norman at the Goal Hall during the time the committee sat?—I do not recollect seeing Mr. Norman there.

Where did you see him?—I certainly saw him at Saint Mary's Hall.

Is he an alderman?—He is.

Did you see Mr. Perkins at the Goal Hall during the time the committee sat?—I saw Mr. Perkins at Saint Mary's Hall, but I do not recollect seeing him in the Goal Hall while the committee sat.

Is he an alderman?—He is a mayor now, he might be there twenty times and I not see him.

You never recollect seeing Mr. Alderman Carter at the Goal Hall?—Never to my knowledge.

Did you see him at the other hall?—I certainly did.

Did you remember Mr. Basil Goode, jun?—Yes, I saw him at the Goal Hall.

He is the goaler?—It is his father that is the goaler I think, and he acts *the case;* I have understood in the town the father is the goaler.

Was Mr. Goode one of the committee?—No.

Do you remember Mr. Percy?—I have seen Mr. Percy at both.

Do you remember Mr. Cleetor?—To the best of my recollection I never saw him at either.

Mr. Vale?—I have seen him at St. Mary's Hall, I don't recollect to have seen him at the other.

Mr. Barton?—I saw Mr. Barton at Saint Mary's Hall.

Mr. John Clark?—To the best of my recollection I never saw him at either.

Mr. Carter, jun. the attorney?—I don't recollect seeing him at the Goal Hall.

Did he dine with you at the time you have been speaking of.

I saw him dine several times, four or five times, I cannot say how many.

Mr. Carter had been Under Sheriff I believe of Coventry?—Public report said he was, I have nothing to ascertain it to me.

Did he act as such?—Prior to the election, I always understood him to act as such up to the time of the election.

Did he continue Under Sheriff during the time of the election?—I think he was not; he was not in that situation in the booth.

He was in the booth?—I saw him in there most days.

In what character?—He appeared there on the part of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, I do not know for what other purpose than to check the poll, he attended with a book in which the freemens' names were entered, as I understood, to see that no body polled who had not a right, or who had received charity.

Did Mr. Carter appear there as a friend for Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—He appeared as a friend to Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, for the purpose of scrutinizing and taking care that no bad votes polled.

And to that his apparent duty was confined?—I saw him do nothing else, and I did not

see him do much of that, for I was very little in the booth.

Mr. Mills. You have been long an inhabitant of the city of Coventry?—About eighteen years.

You was speaking of an application having been made to Sir Robert Peel, to become a candidate for the city of Coventry?—Certainly.

At that time were Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore candidates?—To the best of my knowledge they were.

Mr. Moore was then a total stranger to the city of Coventry?—I cannot say that; I had been introduced to Mr. Moore once, and had an interview.

But you can tell whether he was connected with the city?—Not to my knowledge.

I believe there had been for the last year an important contest about the house of industry?—I believe there was.

And Mr. Jefferys supported the erection of it, and Mr. Bird opposed it?—Yes.

I believe those who were against it, have honoured this house with the name of the Bastile?—Commonly calling it out in the street.

Had the opposition to that and the manner of conducting it raised any objection in the city to the interest of Mr. Bird?—It certainly had.

Did you understand before the dissolution of Parliament, that Mr. Bird was extremely unpopular with a very large part of the interest of the city of Coventry?—I believe Mr. Bird had, by his opposition to that bill made himself many enemies; but whether he was generally unpopular I cannot say.

I am asking whether his opposition to those

who had erected the house of industry, had not raised an unpopularity against him?—Yes.

Before the dissolution of Parliament do you remember any other thing done by Mr. Bird and his party, which had given offence to the inhabitants of Coventry, their manner of canvassing, and a declaration of their expectation of success; does that bring it to your mind, did they declare no other person should come into the city of Coventry?—I did not hear either Mr. Bird or Mr. Moore make such a declaration.

Did you see any mob or large body of men attending after Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and carrying any thing for that purpose?—Certainly; on the Saturday previous to the election, I saw a large mob surrond the King's Head, where Colonel Brooke, who came to offer himself as a candidate was; they kept him a prisoner there sometime, and prevented people having access to him.

On whose part did the mob so declare?—For Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Had they any emblems at that time, which denoted them to be of the party of Bird and Moore?—I believe they had two blue flags, they were canvassing in the town. I myself waited upon Colonel Brooke about nine o'clock in the morning, I then left him and went to several of my friends; we got together and about twelve o'clock we could not get into the King's-Head.

Do you know as a mere fact, whether the obstruction given to Colonel Brooke, was or not the occasion of his quitting the town?—I cannot say, because Colonel Brooke did not tell me, but I always understood it to be so.

Colonel Brooke did quit the town after that attack upon him, without professing himself a candidate?—He did.

There were little hopes after that, that any body would be bold enough to propose himself as a candidate; did you think it any easy thing?—I did not think it any easy thing.

Mr. Barlow first came to you?—Yes.

Had you before that heard any thing of Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow as joint interests?—I had not.

Did you adopt the pretensions of Mr. Barlow at that time?—Not on the Friday, but on Saturday morning.

Was that the second interview with Captain Barlow?—The second or third.

When did the poll begin?—On Thursday the 8th, this was on the Saturday evening or the Sunday morning, I cannot say which.

Then at the time you adopted him did you adopt him unconnected, or connected with any body else?—Unconnected with any body at that moment.

In what character did you adopt Captain Barlow's interest?—I adopted Captain Barlow's interest as a friend, to make all the interest I could for him, not as an agent or a professional man.

Was it in opposition to the pretensions of those who were then candidates, Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?—It was.

Then the first time you saw Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, was as you were going to the poll on the election day?—I never saw them together before, Captain Barlow, myself, and some of his friends were walking down the High-street towards the poll, and Mr. Jefferys came out of the Bear and joined us.

They lived in distinct places in Coventry?—As far as I know Captain Barlow used to sleep at the King's Head, and Mr. Jefferys at the White Bear; Captain Barlow did sleep several nights' at a friend's house.

Before the poll began, do you know of any joint advertisement issued from Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—No.

Could such a thing have been done without your knowledge?—I should think not.

Mr. Barlow was not at that time an inhabitant or connected with Coventry?—No.

He commanded I believe, a troop of horse at or near Coventry?—I believe his troop lay at Birmingham; I don't know he had a troop, I think it was the Fourth Dragoon Guards, I am not certain.

You have stated yourself to have acted as a committee-man at the Goal Hall?—I did.

Was that an appointment of Mr. Barlow's, or with the adoption of Mr. Barlow?—Not at all.

Was it under his direction, or at his request?—Never.

Before you acted, did you ask for his permission? Did you act as a committee-man, conceiving that the knowledge of your interests of the place would advance the object you had at the election?—That was my opinion.

Was that from independent motives, independent of Mr. Barlow's person, or connection with him?—Completely.

Perhaps you was one of those who disapproved of Mr. Bird's conduct; I don't ask why?—I certainly had not approved it in that instance.

Do you remember Captain Barlow ever be-

ing in that committee room, while the committee was engaged in business?—Never.

Did you ever receive from any of the committee-men, in the course of your business, any direction as coming from Captain Barlow, and under his authority?—Never.

Did you, or any of your committee-men wait any directions from Captain Barlow, or did you act upon your own judgments?—Upon our own judgments completely.

Then in your progress of acting as a committee-man, was you at all connected with Mr. Barlow's opinion or judgment?—Never.

Had you any reason to collect from the other committee-men, that they were appointed or acted under the direction of Mr. Barlow?—Never.

Have you any reason to suppose they acted from their own wishes, independent of any of Mr. Barlow?—I believe they did.

Is it possible to conduct an election without a committee of persons who have a knowledge of the place?—No.

The next thing is as to where Mr. Payne sat; you were there often I suppose?—Very seldom.

But when you was there, from what you heard and saw, Mr. Payne was the only person acting in that room?—Mr. Payne, was the only person acting in that room.

It was a room in which all persons wishing well to Captain Barlow or Mr. Jefferys might have access?—They had access.

Probably you might have seen at different times, a hundred of electors there?—I should think more.

Were the aldermen the only persons that were seen there?—No.

Were the drapers company the only persons you saw there?—No.

Did you see any particular conduct adopted by either of those bodies, that was not adopted by others bringing intelligence, and so on?—None.

It was a general open place for the interest of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—I always found it open.

Did you ever know of any other committee sitting besides that at the Goal Hall?—I knew of no committee sitting, but at the Goal Hall.

Now as to the canvassing you said these gentlemen did not canvass; do you know why they did not canvass; was it safe for them to canvass?—We did not consider it safe for them to canvass.

Did you and others advise Captain Barlow that it was not safe for them to canvass on account of the mob?—I did give that advice.

Was it from a conviction there would be danger?—I thought there was.

Then in truth those gentlemen were deprived of the means of applying to individual electors from fear of their persons?—To the best of my judgment I should have thought it very imprudent.

At the close of each day's poll, upon your oath were they permitted to speak?—They made an attempt one day, but the mob in the interest of the other candidates soon put a stop to it, and they got away as soon as they could.

How did they come to the poll, in triumph, or how?—There was no triumph; we went a few of us, and got in as well as we could: we directed no votes to attend us.

The place where Captain Barlow's committee sat, was at the Goal Hall?—Yes.

Do you know in point of fact of Captain

Barlow ever coming to that place for business, and not for the purpose of going from thence to the poll?—I do not recollect seeing him there at any other time than in the morning preceding the poll, and then he only stopped a few minutes; we generally took the advantage of going to the poll while the other party were collecting.

What do you mean by going to the poll?—Going to the Hustings with the candidates as a friend.

As to the dinners at the King's Head, where one gentleman put up they dined, and at the other house where the other gentleman put up they dined also?—They did.

Do you know whether those gentlemen came and paid their score?—Every body to my knowledge; I always paid.

Was there any thing which entitled a person to come in and take a part of that dinner?—No, I believe the names were taken down every day as they sat down to dinner.

Do you know of any previous arrangement for those dinners?—None, it was divided every day; those that went away without paying, paid the next morning.

It should seem from the description of my learned friends, that the whole interest in Coventry was in the hands of the drapers company; and the corporation of Coventry?—I should think not.

Have you no independent manufacturers in Coventry unconnected with either?—Yes.

Did they act with the same zeal?—Some of them did; it was a zealous contest, and zealously pursued.

Now I wish to ask you, in the committee what was the business that occupied your at-

tention?—Every thing that could relate to the election.

One pretty important one, was I suppose, to canvass the 700 outvoters?—Yes, some lived in London, and I believe some at Plymouth.

It was one motive to send and canvass those men?—Yes.

Was that one main object of the committee?—It was.

Something like expence must have been incurred in sending for persons at those distant places?—Yes, we generally allowed a man either nine-pence, or one shilling a mile, for his horse and himself to canvass.

The arrangement of this, of course depended upon the number of persons and the distance of places?—The distance of places was the thing particularly attended to.

And the committee undertook that business?—Yes.

Did you ever seek or receive the approbation of Mr. Barlow, for any of those transactions?—I do not believe that Captain Barlow knew any thing of it; I never informed him of it.

Had he any reason to know the particular mode in which that was done?—No.

Did you ever ask him if you should so conduct yourself?—No.

Do you believe he was ignorant of the manner in which it was conducted?—I should think so.

You have mentioned the expence of chairing; I would ask you what the expence of chairing might be in the city of Coventry?—I do not know of my own knowledge.

Did you see the chairing?—Yes, I did.

Did you happen to see the chairing of Mr.

Bird, at the preceding election?—I did see it, as far as my recollection serves me.

Which of the two do you think was the most expensive or the most splendid?—I should suppose the last cost double the former.

Was Mr. Bird's very magnificent?—No, it was not.

Were there plenty of ribbons?—I cannot say.

It is not the pride of the city of Coventry to have a magnificent exhibition after an election is over?—I should imagine it was the pride of the common people.

Now as to the warrant produce it, and look at it; that warrant was signed upon you?—It was.

You conceived yourself bound to obey it to the fullest extent?—I did.

Was it demanded of you by the person who served it, that you should obey to the fullest extent?—I cannot speak to that.

Did they search your books?—They brought this warrant to me on the 3d of February, on Thursday I read it through; I told them I had no subscription papers whatever, nor had I any election papers; and the only accounts I had was two entries of two discounted bills; they asked me to shew them the book, I said I would shew them the next morning: Mr. Pearman and Mr. Mason came and saw these two entries in my cash book, journal and bill book.

Did you give every possible information, and expose to them every entry that did, or could in any manner relate to the election?—I did.

Then the only entry that relates to the election in your book, is that where those two notes were discounted by Captain Barlow, in the manner you have stated?—They were

With respect to the money subscribed, you have already said you subscribed as an individual, without any relation to your connection with the Drapers Company?—I did.

Did you suggest to Captain Barlow your intention to subscribe that money?—I did not.

Did you subscribe that upon your independent determination to support Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—Most certainly.

Do you believe Captain Barlow had any knowledge of the money being in your drawer in that purse?—I believe not.

Did Captain Barlow to your knowledge ever assume any direction or controul over the money in that purse?—Never.

Did you account to him, or send to him any result that you found upon searching the purse when you returned it to Mr. Sharpe?—I did not.

Did you communicate any particular of the circumstances of that purse to Captain Barlow, at that time?—I never did.

You did not see Sir Robert Peele?—I never saw him;—I signed a requisition to Sir Robert Peele.

Did you ever see a flag with no Bastile upon it?—I never did.

The requisition you say you signed to Sir Robert Peele?—Yes; it was sealed up by some gentlemen, I only signed it.

Afterwards Colonel Brook came?—Yes; I signed no requisition to him.

Nor to Mr. Barlow?—Never.

Mr. Const. You have been asked whether when Captain Barlow came with you on the Friday evening before the poll commenced, you knew of any connection between Mr. Jefferys and him; do you not know that at that time Mr. Jefferys was not there,—he had not arrived?—No; he had not.

Therefore he was not at that time in the town?—No.

Do you happen to know when he did arrive?—On the Saturday morning.

Therefore, on the Friday night, you did not make any promise to Captain Barlow?—No; not till the Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Do you mean that the two addresses were delivered separately?—Yes.

Is it not the general custom there, to give the two addresses copied together, though upon two different papers?—As completely independent as any thing could be, and distributed singly.

Were they at any time during the election, delivered jointly—I admit they were printed upon separate papers?—Certainly they were.

How soon did that take place?—To the best of my recollection, it took place on the Saturday after the polling began; but I cannot be certain; either on the Friday night or the Saturday, but I think it was on the Saturday.

Were they ever at any time printed on the same sheet of paper?—I believe they were.

You say that the resolutions of the Committee, and all that was done by their direction, was totally independent of Captain Barlow?—I considered it so completely.

Do you remember that you had authority to act for him discretionally, without his interference in the election?—I did not conceive I had any authority directly or indirectly from Captain Barlow, to interfere in it.—I interfered in it as a friend to the place, determined to support these candidates in opposition to the others.

You have already told us that Mr. Barlow

had deposited bills which you discounted for 1500l.?—Certainly.

You discounted a bill of a 1000l.?—I did.

To whom did you pay the produce of that bill, deducting the discount?—That 1000l. was applied for election purposes.

Where did you put it, did you give it to any body or what?—That 1000l. went into the purse certainly.

That 1000l. so put into the purse, did you think you had authority, or did you act as if you had, in disposing of that 1000l.?—I certainly did.

The dinner that you spoke of to have happened after every day's poll, every gentleman in your company paid his reckoning?—They did.

I don't know whether of your knowledge you knew of any other dinner?—I do not.

I think you stated one source of expence to be that of sending for out votes by order of the Committee?—Yes.

Do you mean the Jail Hall Committee?—Yes.

Because I understand you to have said before, that the conduct of sending for out voters devolved upon Mr. Payne, at the other place?—Mr. Payne arranged the routes sufficient for that before, and then the man came to the Jail Hall for the money, according to the distance they were going—Mr. Payne arranged it; he put down such a one in Liverpool, Congleton, and so on, where the parties lived.

Did Mr. Payne conduct any other part of the business?—No; he had quite enough there.

To your knowledge was there any commu-

nication between the Committee at the Jail Hall, and the London Committee?—I know of no London Committee.

The 500l. was afterwards put in the same way?—I really believe it was; but it was applied for the purposes of the Election and the Chairing.

And subject to the same controul?—I considered it as such.

While you considered you had the authority to put that 1000l. in the purse, from whom do you consider you had that authority?—I understood it to be for the purposes of the Election; Captain Barlow mentioned it so.

And under that mere statement, you considered you had authority to dispose of that 1000l. without ever rendering any account?—I have never rendered any account whatever to Captain Barlow.

You stated that the Drapers Company and the Corporation, jointly supported those candidates; was that customary with the Drapers Company to support the same candidates at former elections?—I do not know.

Was it not the custom always the contrary?—I am a very young member, and I cannot recollect—I believe it was so.

You know of no reason of their altering their course at this election?—I have told my reason for it; I cannot answer for other people's.

Did you consider both these companies equally offended with respect to Mr. Bird, as to this House of Industry?—No doubt of it.

I understand the witness to say, he has no knowledge of any inducement for these two companies to unite their interest, except their dislike to Mr. Bird?—Yes, of a bill Mr. Bird

opposed for the House of Industry; the beneficial effects of which we have since experienced very materally.

Does the witness of his own knowledge, know of any understanding that was come to between these two companies, in what way this money was to be applied?—I know of no understanding whatever between the two companies, with respect to the application of the money for the election, nor do I know that the Draper's Company ever met during the election; I believe they never did.

This five hundred pounds, subscribed by the corporation, was applied for the purpose of the election, and placed in the purse, the custody of which was not in you as a banker, but in your individual capacity?—Yes.

And your individual capacity is that of being master of the Draper's Company?—Yes.

Had you any authority from the corporation, so to dispose of their money?—It was generally understood that all the subscriptions should be applied for the support of these two gentlemen.

When was it that it was so understood?—The first money that was brought was the five hundred pounds of Mr. Jefferys's, the next was the one thousand pounds that was discounted for Captain Barlow; when the corporation paid their money, I cannot take upon myself to say, but it was some time after the election was over.

Do you know of any account of the expences of this election?—I have no account.

Do you know of any account?—There was an account kept at the Jail Hall of the individuals sending persons out canvassing.

Did you or not know that at the time of the

election, that the corporation were responsible for five hundred pounds?—Certainly.

Being so responsible for the five hundred pounds, by what authority did you and the rest of the gentlemen of the committee apply this sum for the purpose of supporting both these candidates?—I conceived it was a general fund. I understood so, principally from Mr. Inge. I believe I never had any conference with the corporation as a body. Mr. Inge was the only person I understood it from.

Was, or was not Mr. Jefferys generally reputed to be the candidate of the corporation?—It was so considered I believe.

Was it not generally reputed that Mr. Barlow was the candidate of the Drapers company?—Certainly.

Then how came you to think, that being the candidate of two separate bodies, the fund was to be joint?—There was nothing subscribed by the Drapers Company.

You described five hundred pounds; two hundred and fifty of which was Mr. Little's?—It was.

And which has not been repaid to you by Mr. Little yet?—No. Mr. Little and I settle our accounts once a year in March; when March comes, it will be settled.

In consequence of what passed at the election, is there any thing due from you to the Drapers Company?—Not the ninety thousandth part of an atom on account of the election.

The Drapers Company are not in any way involved in expence to your knowledge in consequence of the election?—Not a farthing.

And this five hundred pounds of your's and Mr. Little's, was given by you as individuals?

—Yes, and our respective families are so much minus.

And you say Mr. Payne was sitting at St. Mary's Hall, making out the votes?—Yes.

Was the sitting there of his own accord, or desired by other persons?—I have heard he sat there by the desire of Mr. Inge.

Do you know that he sat there at the desire of the committee at the Jail Hall?—Mr. Payne had staid at St. Mary's Hall for three days. I believe before the committee at the Jail Hall were appointed or sat at all, and I believe at last, Mr. Inge told us he engaged Payne for the purpose.

Was there a regular communication between the committee of the Jail Hall, and Mr. Payne?—Certainly.

Committee. When the money was brought to you, you refused to receive it as a banker?—I did.

Why?—Because I did not chuse to have fifty vouchers in a day coming into the house.

You thought it would be more trouble than profit?—Yes.

Captain Barlow you stated, frequently used to go to the committee-room previous to his going to the poll?—Yes.

Why did Captain Barlow go to that committee-room, which was as much in the interest of Mr. Jefferys as himself?—I cannot tell.

Was it or not considered as a joint committee of men, acting with a joint fund?—I considered it as such.

There was a requisition sent to Sir Robert Peele, to stand candidate for Coventry?—Yes.

Did he refuse?—I believe he did.

If Sir Robert Peele had stood, did you think the corporation and the Drapers com-

pany would have supported him?—Most certainly.

If any other person had stood in opposition to Mr. Bird, would they have supported that other person?—I believe they would.

Mr. Moore did not represent Coventry before?—Never.

Mr. Bird did?—Yes.

Were there any other parties in Coventry besides the Drapers Company and the corporation?—Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore were supported, I believe, by what they call the Blues, a general body of voters, in general opposition to the corporation.

The corporation and the Drapers Company were uniformly hostile before?—They were.

What was the cause of their junction?—I believe the cause was disapproving of Mr. Bird's conduct respecting the work-house.

Was there any other general assigned cause for the unpopularity of Mr. Bird?—It was generally understood, that it was upon Mr. Bird's interest alone that Mr. Moore was brought down, and the town was not consulted at all who should be the candidates; that was another reason.

Am I to understand you that Mr. Bird brought Mr. Moore down to Coventry?—Certainly, I always understood it so. I never heard of any requisition going to Mr. Moore from any body in the town. Mr. Moore was a stranger to the place.

Did you ever see Mr. Moore in the city of Coventry prior to the election?—Never; Mr. Moore came down to Coventry in March or April.

Did he remain long when he came down in March canvassing?—I believe only a few days;

it was while I was ill, and I believe at the time of the procession for the peace.

What is the Drapers Company?—It consists of eighteen members, a master, two wardens, and the rest are called drapers.

Have they any funds appropriated to a corporation?—They have about a hundred a year.

Are they a chartered body?—They are.

What is the object of the charter?—The object of the charter was for the furtherance of trade originally.

Can they grant freedom of their corporation to any person?—I believe they can, but it has not been done for a long time.

If a person becomes a member of the Drapers Company, is it entered in a book?—No.

Has the Draper's Company much influence among the lower orders of the people in Coventry?—They have some influence, but not any great deal. I think they cannot have any vast deal. I think individually they have interest.

At every election has it not been considered that the support of the Drapers Company was a considerable strength?—It has been considered so.

Do you know how much money was put into that purse for election purposes: you mentioned your own five hundred pounds, you mentioned a thousand pounds of Captain Barlow's, Mr. Dickens's five hundred pounds, and the corporation five hundred pounds; was that all?—That was all.

There was no individual subscription of any gentleman in the town?—None to my knowledge.

There was a paper of agreement to poll by tallies which you signed?—Yes.

Do you know that Mr. Jefferys gave security

to the corporation for any further sum?—I don't know that he gave security to the corporation for a farthing.

You say the first time you saw Captain Barlow, was the Friday evening preceding the poll?—Yes.

And you espoused his interest either on the Saturday night or the Monday morning?—I did.

That must have been either the third or fourth of July?—Yes.

The poll commenced on the 8th?—I believe it did.

Whether from the time you first saw Captain Barlow, and before the time you espoused his interest, he has agreed to be at any part of the expence of the election?—He did.

Did you espouse his interest as a candidate to represent the city of Coventry, till he had agreed to advance a sum of money to defray the expence of the election?—I certainly did espouse his cause, before he advanced the money.

Was that agreement and espousal of his cause acts of one and the same day?—They were.

Then I am to understand they were contemporaneous acts?—Yes.

Should you have espoused his interest unless he had agreed to advance a certain sum of money towards the expences?—I do not think I should.

The actual discount of the bill did not take place I think you stated, till the 12th of July?—It was the Monday after the election began.

Do you know in point of fact, when that bill was first drawn?—In point of fact, I believe that bill was drawn on the Saturday after the election

began, or on the Sunday morning, and dated on the Saturday.

It was not drawn at the time he first agreed to advance the money?—Certainly not; it was either on the Saturday night or on the Sunday morning.—I beg your pardon, it was on the Monday.

There was an agreement in point of fact, of Captain Barlow to advance money at the same time, that you agreed to espouse his interest?—Yes.

Was the produce of this bill so discounted by you, put into the same purse or the same drawer, with other sums of money advanced by other persons?—Certainly.

You stated that a gentleman of the name of Sharpe, a freeman of Coventry had access to this purse?—He had with my permission.

Do you happen to know to what amount Mr. Sharpe took money out of the purse?—I cannot tell.

Can you tell whereabouts?—It must be something very considerable, because Mr. Sharpe paid one of the chairing bills.

Those sums of money were taken out by Mr. Sharpe during the election?—Certainly.

And before the chairing took place?—Some of them.

Do you know in what manner that money was so applied?—I believe that money was applied in sending out to canvass the out voters.

Do you believe that the whole of the money he so took out, was applied to paying the expences of the out voters—do you believe the whole of the money was so applied?—I do know of no other application, or saw any.

Did you see any money paid to any individual elector?—Never to my knowledge; persons going out to canvass might be electors, and might be electors without my knowledge.

Mr. Inge took money out of the purse to your knowledge?—Yes.

To what amount?—I think it was upwards of two hundred pounds.

To what purpose was that sum applied?—I understood by Mr. Inge it was applied to paying counsel.

You did not see any part of that money applied yourself?—I did not.

BENJAMIN DICKENS, *called in and sworn.*

You are an attorney, I believe, in Coventry?—I am.

Do you recollect, just before the Coventry election, paying five hundred pounds to Mr. Woodcock?—I do.

Upon whose account did you pay him that five hundred pounds?—Mr. Jefferys's.

You paid it to him by Mr. Jefferys's direction?—I did.

Do you recollect a conversation of Mr. Jefferys's, on the subject of a proposal made to him by the Corperation of Coventry, in respect to his being a candidate?—I know of no such conversation at all.

Mr. Jefferys never consulted you as to what course he should pursue with the corporation of Coventry, as to money matters?—No.

You stated that you had no conversation with Mr. Jefferys, respecting any money matters relating to the election at Coventry?—Not at all; the conception I had, as to the money advanced by Mr. Jefferys was, that it was to

be laid out in the fair and honourable transactions of the election.

You are now speaking of the five hundred pounds, you paid by his directions to Mr. Woodcock?—Yes.

You say you had no conversation with Mr. Jefferys respecting money matters?—None; I had nothing to do with the corporation, I was agent to Mr. Jefferys, and no one else.

Had you, at the election, any conversation with Captain Barlow, at all?—None at all; I was employed from the beginning by Mr. Jefferys only; I considered myself acting through the whole election, solely as the agent of Mr. Jefferys. I borrowed that money for Mr. Jefferys myself.

Mr. Jefferys having drawn a bill?—No; Mr. Jefferys gave me a note which I endorsed.

Then do you know of any security given to the corporation, on any person in Coventry, with a view to election purposes?—None at all; I am sure there was none within my knowledge.

CHARLES LILLEY, *called in and sworn.*

You live at Coventry, I understand?—Yes.

And have lived there many years?—Yes.

Are you a native of Coventry?—Yes.

Have you no bets depending upon the result of this election?—Not one.

You recollect the circumstances of the election at Coventry in July?—I do.

Do you remember whether Mr. Carter, jun. before that time, had been the under Sheriff?—I do, I believe he was.

When the poll began, did he appear upon the Hustings?—He did, before the poll began.

Did he act in his character of under Sheriff,

or in any other respect?—He did not act as under sheriff, he was challenged, and he said he was not Under Sheriff.

Was he doing any thing?—I think he demanded a poll in writing, on behalf of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; and he was objected to, as being under sheriff.

He demanded a poll as a freeman?—Yes, he said he was not under sheriff, and attended there for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; I was close to him at the time he spoke.

Did he continue from that time to act as agent of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?—I think he acted every day but one, and that day he told me he was going upon some business to the sessions, and could not act that day.

Having lived so long at Coventry do you know the circumstance of what is called Sir Thomas White's charity; do you remember the distribution of it for many years past?—Yes.

At what time of the year have they been distributed as long as you remember?—In Trinity Week.

Do you speak generally or universally, as far as your memory goes?—I never knew them distribute it but in Trinity Week; they might have been, but I never heard that they were. Twenty or thirty times to my knowledge they have been distributed in Trinity week; I know persons that have had them.

At what time were they distributed last year?—It was in the month of October, I believe.

What time does the mayor go out of office?—The choice is generally made in October.

and I believe he is always sworn in on the 1st. of November.

Do you know who has the power of distribution?—I should look upon it the Mayor, Magistrates and Council.

In point of fact they were not distributed till October?—No.

MATTHEW PAYNE, *called in and sworn.*

Mr. Const. You are an attorney, I believe, in Coventry?—I am.

Was you at the last Coventry election a member of any committee for conducting the election?—I was not.

In what way was you employed at that election?—I was employed in Saint Mary's Hall, which was a public place of meeting.

For what purpose was you there employed?—I was employed for conducting election business, so far as related to the out-voters.

Whose election business was you employed to conduct, what candidates?—The candidates were the parties I attended for of course.

Name them?—Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, I was not employed by them particularly.

However, you was employed there for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow?—Yes.

In consequence of that employment had you communication with the committee at the Goal Hall?—I sent persons who had money to receive for their expences to that committee.

Then I am to understand from you, that the committee at the Goal Hall was the proper place to send persons to, who had money to receive?—I don't know; we used to send paper to that committee for their expences. I don't know any thing about the money transactions.

For what purpose did you send persons to the committee at the Goal Hall?—Persons that were employed to look after the outvoters; they wanted their expences, and I used to send them there.

Saint Mary's Hall was an open place for any person to go?—Any body came that chose.

Was there any peeson came there with whom you was in the habit of consulting what you should do?—No, I had no consultation, it was left to me to consult the outvoters.

By whom was you employed?—I was employed by Mr. Inge, the town clerk.

And you was employed by him for the purpose of taking steps to bring in the out-votes?—Yes.

And there were no persons in the habit of coming or consulting with you, as to the necessary steps?—There was Mr. Dickens who acted a part for me; he assisted in taking an account of the poll.

Mr. Dickens the attorney?—Mr. Dickens the attorney acted with me,

Did he act with you for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow both?—Yes, he acted with me, but not in my department.

Was he acting for both of them?—I don't know who he was acting for, or who was to pay him; he used to assist me in checking off the books; I used to check the out votes myself, and he assisted me in checking off the town votes: when I had time I assisted in checking off the town votes also, and occasionally there was another person employed.

Who was that?—Mr. Wilmot, an attorney, he used to assist in checking them off.

Who did you employ in London, for the

purpose of getting in the out-votes?—I corresponded with Mr. Clarke in London, generally.

Who is Mr. Clarke?—Mr. Clarke is, I believe, one of the present Sheriffs of Coventry. Does he reside in Coventry?—Yes; he did reside in London at that time.

What is he?—I don't know that he is in any business now.

Then it was Mr. Clarke you corresponded with for the purpose of bringing down the London votes, and the London business?—Yes.

Mr. Mills. Do you recollect Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore being in Coventry before either of the other candidates came there?—I believe they were.

Some time previous to the election taking place?—They were.

Was the town in its usual state of quiet, at the time they were canvassing the town?—I cannot say it was quite quiet, in the way I wished it.

Pray tell us whether the peace of the town was invaded or not, during the time they were canvassing?—I don't know of my own knowledge; there was a great uproar certainly

Did you see, while they were canvassing, any collection of people with them?—Yes.

Had they the flags with them?—I think they had the ward flags.

What sort of flags were they?—They had the name of the ward upon them, I think the ward flags were those at that time.

Were you present at the King's Head when Colonel Brook was there?—I was not.

Was you present when Mr. Jefferys came to Coventry, and was at the White Bear?—

No; I was confined altogether at St Mary's Hall.

Did you ever consult either with Mr. Jefferys or Mr. Barlow, with respect to the duty you undertook at St. Mary's Hall?—No; I never saw them all the time: they never were at St. Mary's Hall during all the election, nor for several days before.

Did you, yourself, ask any approbation from Mr. Barlow, of any thing that you did in the course of your duty?—Never.

Mr. Const. Did you ever recollect a quieter election at Coventry?—I never knew a quieter election there in my life, since I can remember it.

Was it quiet?—I think it was as quiet during this election, as most elections have been.

WILLIAM BUCK, *called in and sworn.*

Mr. Const. Were you a warden of the drapers company in July last?—I was.

Do you remember Captain Barlow coming to town?—I do.

Do you know of any applications made to Captain Barlow to come?—No; I did not know of any direct application.

Do you know of any application?—No; in fact I knew nothing of it, till on the Sunday; a mere accident in the street. I knew nothing of it till he came.

Did you know it before he came?—On the Sunday morning, previous to his coming; but it was not positively decided whether he came forward or not; a gentleman in the street, who told me he was come: I was in some doubt till the Monday morning, whether he would come.

Do you happen to know, what induced him

to come, whether upon the application of any persons in Coventry?—There was a gentleman, whose name I do not recollect, at the King's Head who did decline; and I understood Captain Barlow was in company, and he said, if he declined he would stand himself.

Who was present at that time?—I can't tell.

Was you there?—No; there was a great number of people in the street who could not get at them.

How long was this before Mr. Barlow came into the town?—This, I believe, was on Saturday, Colonel Brook declined, and I understood Captain Barlow offered his services, and on the Monday morning he declared himself.

Do you remember Mr. Jefferys coming into Coventry?—I did not see him.

You saw him there afterwards?—I don't think I saw him for three or four days.

Had you any communication with any of the members of the corporation of Coventry, respecting the candidates?—We applied by letter.

Who do you mean by we?—The drapers company.

You acted for the drapers company?—Certainly.

With whom had you any conversation as to the intended members, after the letter?—It fell into the general mass of the town on the Monday morning; when Mr. Barlow came forth to declare himself, several gentlemen were sent for, who were not members of the drapers company, and had nothing to do with them: but such as were supposed, I presume, to be friendly to that side of the question.

Where was this meeting held?—At Mr. James Troughton's house.

He is clerk of the drapers company?—Yes.

Did you come to any resolution at that meeting?—Nothing more than that, I believe, the gentlemen present shook hands with Mr. Barlow and wished him success.

How soon afterwards, had you any access to Mr. Jefferys?—I don't know that the drapers company had any access to Mr. Jefferys afterwards, any more than as we were going to the booth, Mr. Jefferys joined us, generally it might be so; but I did not very much attend.

Was Mr. Barlow understood by you, as being in the interest of the drapers company?—He was considered as being in the high interest, that is the drapers company.

By what interest was Mr. Jefferys supposed to be supported?—Generally speaking, by the corporation and other friends.

Was there at any time a junction between the corporation, about supporting two members?—I know of no further junction than from a letter.

Did you in fact, afterwards, support Mr. Jefferys, as well as Mr. Barlow?—Yes; not personally, I had no vote. The friends of each, supported the other generally.

Were not the efforts of these two bodies equally exerted for the advantage of both these gentlemen?—I cannot say how equal it might be, there is no doubt it was general.

Was not every thing adopted and executed, that could tend to the advantage of either of them, and both of them?—I cannot say; there were some objections to one, that were not to the other, some gentlemen split upon that rock.

We are told there was a fund for the purposes of the election; did you not yourself, subscribe some money?—I did; but did not pay it.

How did it happen that you did not pay it?—I have never been asked for it.

The election was rather expensive, was there any reason for withholding the money?—The only reason I can assign is, that I never was asked for it.

Had it been called for, you was ready to put it down?—Yes.

Who was to have had the disposal of that money of your's?—I cannot answer that.

Who was to have the control over it?—I don't know.

What was your understanding upon the subject, when you put your name down?—I never did put my name down.

Do you know any other person that promised at the same time, or at any other time?—I cannot say positively. I saw a piece of paper, that I presumed, was wrote from a supposition that one gentleman would give so much, and I was afterwards told that they had done it: my name in the paper appeared a blank. I interfered very little with the election.

Do you know of your own knowledge, whether Captain Barlow himself, subscribed a part of it, or Mr. Jefferys?—Of my own knowledge, I do not.

Mr. Mills. You was, at this time, warden of the company?—Yes.

You, therefore, know what the transactions of the company then were?—Yes.

What you have stated, you know to have

been the opinion, and sentiments of the company for whom you acted?—Yes.

That they adopted Mr. Barlow of their own choice?—Yes.

When they adopted him, was there any money offered, or proposal made by him; or, did you do it because he offered himself?—I have always understood an election at Coventry was attended with a very serious expence, and we agreed to defray a part of the expence.

Who do you mean by we?—A body of gentlemen in the town; I don't mean the drapers company, certainly not.

When you adopted Mr. Barlow, Mr. Jefferys was not there?—He was not.

You are stated as a company to have joined the corporation, at this election, for the first time?—For the first time that I know of.

What was the reason of the drapers company separating itself from its old interest and joining the corporation?—I believe the reason we were displeased with the conduct of one of the candidates for bringing a person down without our consent.

Was you pleased with Mr. Bird's conduct, respecting the house of industry?—Not at all.

Did that orm any part of your reason?—A very considerable part.

Then you had two reasons for adopting Mr. Barlow; one was your opposition to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and the other, your approbation of Mr. Barlow? I cannot say much of the approbation of Mr. Barlow, he was almost a stranger.

Upon your enquiring he was a stranger whom you accepted, and put in as a candidate?—Yes.

He was put in by your directions and wishes, and you adopted him without any reference to Mr. Jefferys, or a junction with him at that time?—Yes, he was adopted several days to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. Const. Was any thing subscribed by the draper's company to this election?—Not as a company.

Was what you subscribed as an individual?—Only as an individual.

Do you know of any subscriptions made by the company, as members of the company?—No, I do not.

Was there any resolution passed that bound them in any way?—No more than as men of honor.

There was no agreement, no subscription as a company?—Not a farthing.

Nor gave any security for money, I mean as a company?—Not any.

You came to a resolution that the gentlemen should subscribe?—Not the candidates, some gentlemen of the town.

You say the two gentlemen were separate at first?—Yes.

How happened it, that they afterwards joined?—I cannot say, it was accident; we went with Mr. Barlow, to the booth several days, and one morning Mr. Jefferys joined in at the Bear.

I don't mean joining company; I mean joining interests; you told me that Captain Barlow, was at first, separated from Mr. Jefferys, upon the interest of the draper's company, and Mr. Jefferys upon the interest of the corporation: I want to know how the joint support took place?—I cannot answer it; I know nothing but what was accidental.

Then did you, who meant to support Mr. Barlow by accident, support another person with him?—I was asked if I would give the same money to support Mr. Jefferys, as I did Mr. Barlow, and I said yes: that is all I know of it.

As to the general interest, how soon was it they were supported as joint candidates?—Leaving out money, as joint candidates, I conceived they were pretty generally adopted by most people from the first, that is when the election began.

As soon as Mr. Jefferys came, in short?—They kept separate for some days.

The drapers' company always took a part at every election at Coventry?—Generally, as long as I have known them.

Have they a considerable degree of influence in Coventry?—Not a great deal.

How many votes do you think the company's interest could command?—Very few I conceive, as individuals; it was the appearance of the thing, more than the thing itself; it gave a respectability to the appearance of it.

Was there any meeting to put in nomination, either of the candidates, Mr. Barlow, Mr. Moore, or Mr. Bird?—I do not know

Did the drapers' company unanimously agree to support Mr. Barlow?—When Mr. Barlow came on the Monday and declared himself, many of the gentlemen met at Mr. Troughton's, who were favourable to Mr. Barlow.

Were Colonel Brooke and Mr. Barlow together, did they come into town together?—I believe not; I believe Colonel Brooke came from Birmingham; he came, I believe, by solicitation to the King's Head, he was there,

and several gentlemen were expected to wait upon him; but the mob was so great they could not get to him, and I believe they were intimidated; and then Mr. Barlow said, if you go, I will offer myself.

Was there any conversation about money at the meeting? I do not recollect there was, I think not.

Adjourned.

Monday, February 28th, 1803.

MR. EDWARD INGE *called in and sworn.*

Mr. Const. You are the town clerk of Coventry?—I am.

You are in the profession of the law, in partnership with Mr. Carter?—I am.

Did you at any time previous to the last election, go to the master or any of the officers of the drapers' company, upon the subject of the election?—Never.

You was not concerned in any agreement, or undertaking between the drapers' company and the corporation?—I was concerned in some resolutions between the drapers' company and the corporation, respecting inviting Sir Robert Peele to Coventry.

I mean respecting the two members that were returned?—I never met the drapers' company upon the subject of inviting the two present members.

I did not say inviting; but respecting any regulation that attached upon that election?—

After Mr. Barlow came to Coventry, I saw the master of the drapers' company.

How long after?—Mr. Barlow declared his intention of offering himself for Coventry on the Friday night, I believe, before the election; I was present with Mr. Woodcock, the then master of the drapers' company, on the Saturday previous to the election, when Mr. Barlow made himself known. I heard from Mr. Woodcock that he had proposed himself as a candidate, that was the first I ever heard of Captain Barlow.

Did you understand upon what interest Mr. Barlow was to stand for Coventry?—Mr. Woodcock was the master of the drapers' company, and I considered the drapers by their master, would adopt Captain Barlow, particularly; I understood it by Mr. Woodcock the master;—I never met the drapers upon the subject, in a body.

Do you know whether Captain Barlow deposited any sum of money?—I undertood Captain Barlow was to spend 1500l.

From whom?—From Mr. Woodcock; I never had any conversation with Captain Barlow upon the subject, every thing that I heard respecting Captain Barlow was from Mr. Woodcock.

Do you remember Mr. Jefferys coming to Coventry?—That was before Captain Barlow; Mr. Jefferys made his intention known before I had any conversation with Mr. Woodcock, upon the subject of Captain Barlow.

Do you remember the time when Mr. Jefferys arrived for the purpose of the election?—On the Saturday preceding the poll.

At that time Captain Barlow was in Coventry?—He was to the best of my knowledge; I

think it was in the evening when I saw Mr. Woodcock

Do you remember having any conversation with Mr. Jefferys respecting the terms upon which he was to be elected?—None whatever.

At any time?—I never had any.

Do you happen to know whether Mr. Jefferys deposited any money for the purpose of the election?—I know nothing of it of my own knowledge.

Did you hear it from Mr. Jefferys?—No; I heard it from the agent of Mr. Jefferys.

Had you no conversation with Mr. Jefferys with which you understood that fact?—No.

Do you know whether there was a bank of any sort, or a purse of any sort, from which the expences of the election was taken?—I understand that every sum was put in the hands of Mr. Woodcock, to be deposited in any way he thought most secure, I never saw any payment made to Mr. Woodcock whatever.

From any circumstance within your knowledge, are you satisfied there was such a fund?—Certainly I do believe it; but not of my own knowledge; I firmly believe it.

I ask, whether during the election, you had not yourself, resorted to that fund, and taken money out of it? I called upon Mr. Woodcock for two hundred pounds, which I wanted to pay the counsel; the two hundred pounds I received, and I firmly believe, that it came out of that fund.

You don't know it? I really don't know it; but I firmly believe it. I never saw a shilling paid into the hands of Mr. Woodcock.

Did you receive more than two hundred pounds before, after, or during the election?—I paid fifteen pounds or guineas, to Mr. Payne,

received from the hands of Mr. Sharpe, I think at two payments.

From whom did you receive the two hundred pounds?—I really think it was from one of Mr. Woodcock's clerks, but am not certain. I applied to Mr. Woodcock's clerks for it, and the application of it was to Mr. Morris, the counsel for the returning officer.—I conveyed it from Mr. Woodcock's to Mr. Morris, who was at the under sheriff's, three doors off.

You did not see any purse then, or know where it was deposited?—I attended at the Goal Hall with Mr. Woodcock, and I saw several payments made there.

As you had only received from Mr. Woodcock or his clerk, two hundred pounds, and from another person, fifteen pounds or guineas?—Yes, from Mr. Sharpe, and I paid it to Mr. Payne.

Then I ask you, whether having paid those sums, you ever saw a purse, or resorted to a place where there was a purse, containing money for election purposes?—I attended the Goal Hall as a committee-man, where there was a purse, out of which I saw money paid to persons who were canvassing. All that I saw was paid by Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Ewbank.

You never, with your own hand, disposed of any other sums but those two?—I have no recollection of any other.

Have you recollection enough to know whether you did or not?—I was a Committee-man; we sent persons out to canvas; sometimes they had three, four and five pounds. I saw Mr. Sharpe pay various small sums to different people: Mr. Sharp might put it into my hand, and I might pay it. I don't know that, but Mr.

Sharpe kept the account generally, and in that way the payments were made in my presence.

In whose custody was that purse?—Mr. Sharpe's; this was a purse, I wish to be understood, kept at the Goal Hall, the money was brought from Mr. Woodcock by hundreds, or whatever it might be, kept in a purse at the County Hall, and there distributed to persons who had demands upon it.

The committee sat at the County Hall?—Yes.

By the County Hall, do you mean the Gaol Hall?—Yes.

Do you know whether there was any other purse, or any other fund in Mr. Woodcock's possession for that purpose?—I know of none; the principal fund was at Mr. Woodcock's, the money was paid into his hands for safe custody, and then retailed out to the committee.

Do you know what was the amount of the money deposited in Mr. Woodcock's hands for safe custody?—I know by representation, I can recapitulate what I believe it to be: three thousand pounds I think, I am satisfied that was the fact, I believe to be the fact most seriously, but I do not know it of my own knowledge, because I did not see it; but by every other conviction on earth I am satisfied of it.

Can you state exactly the different sums which made up that three thousand pounds?—I can upon belief; I did not see the sums paid.

Who composed the committee at which you and Mr. Woodcock sat and conducted business?—Mr. Woodcock, and Mr. Sharpe.

Mr. Payne?—No.

How was he employed?—He was employed

at St. Mary's Hall, for the purpose of making out the routes for the out voters.

Who employed him?—I first retained him myself.

Who is he?—An attorney.

Benjamin Dickins?—He was not at the Goal Hall, he was the agent, as I understand, of Mr. Jefferys; he was occasionally at St. Mary's Hall. I never saw him at the other hall as I recollect.

Who employed him?—I don't know.

Mr. Wilmot?—Mr. Wilmot was occasionally at Saint Mary's Hall; he volunteered his services I know, I will state who they were: Mr. Woodcock, Mr. Sharpe, Mr. Ewbank, Alderman Whitwell, myself, and Mr. Dickins, was there occasionally—Mr. Dickins was there very seldom. I don't recollect seeing him there three times.

Was Mr. Alderman Williamson there?—I don't recollect seeing him there, he certainly had nothing to do with the committee, he was very much at the other Hall.

Was Mr. Mullis the Mayor, a member of the Committee?—No.

Did he use to attend?—I don't recollect seeing him there, he could have no business there, unless he wished to speak to any person.

Was Mr. Goode there?—His father is the Goaler, and he lives with his father, but was not upon the committee.

Did he use to attend the committee?—Im have seen him there, he was not upon the committee.

Was Mr. Perkins there?—He was not upon the committee. I may have seen him there, but I cannot recollect; it is impossible for me to say who came into the room.

Were not Mr. Goode and Mr. Perkins

frequently there, upon the business of the election?—No; not upon the business of that committee, they might have come into the room. Mr. Goode lived in the Goal, and therefore he might occasionally come in, I might have seen Mr. Perkins there, but very seldom.

What was their business there, if they were not upon the committee?—They certainly might come in, I don't immediately recollect what they wanted.

I mean to ask whether the purpose of their coming in was not for the general purpose of the election?—If they were there, it was upon the business of the election, unquestionably.

Did the gentlemen whose names you have mentioned dine and drink with the two members?—The two members alternately dined at the King's Head, and the White Bear, or nearly so; the dinner was provided for fifteen or twenty, and they very often dined there. I dined there, and the friends of the parties generally dined there, the bill was called and we paid our reckoning.

Was the company generally the same?—It often varied; there was generally dinner ordered for fifteen or twenty, sometimes more, sometimes less, and they were generally composed of the same description of people. The bill was always called for and paid; if, by accident, any gentleman went away, he paid the next day. The intention was, that every thing should be paid off clearly, or accident might have prevented its being done perhaps.

Do you know of any general subscription for the purpose of election?—I subscribed myself, and I believe several others.

Do you remember whether Mr. Wyatt the banker subscribed?—I believe he did; I know

it so much by reputation, that I cannot doubt it.

Did you apply to him to subscribe?—No.

You subscribed yourself?—I subscribed fifty pounds; but I have not paid it, nor I do not know that any gentleman has, except Mr. Wyatt. I have heard by reputation that he has paid, but I do not know it.

Do you happen to know if any bills unpaid, have been demanded?—I dare say there are bills unpaid.

Do you know it?—Not of my own knowledge; but I have no doubt.

You have stated that money was distributed at the committee for the purpose of canvassing, or going out, or something of that sort: Was there any committee sitting at the Fleur de lis?—None that I know of; I knew of no persons sitting there in particular.

Do you know of any persons being sent there to receive money?—I believe persons were sent there to receive money.

Do you not from your own knowledge, being in the committee, know that Mr. Perkins the mayor was at the Fleur de lis, and that persons were sent there to receive money?—I don't know it of my own knowledge, I never was at the Fleur de lis during the whole election.

I would ask whether in the committee, in which you state yourself to have sat, there was any arrangement for any person sitting at the Fleur de lis?—I do not recollect any such.

Or at any other place?—I do not recollect any such thing.

Was there any communication between any person at the Fleur de lis, and the committee?—Not that I recollect.

No persons sent from one to the other?—Not that I recollect.

Do you happen to know whether there was any communication between the persons who sat at Saint Mary's Hall and the Fleur de lis?—I do not know.

I believe many of the out-voters, after they had polled came to Saint Mary's Hall, and were then sent to the Fleur de lis.

Am I to understand that you are talking of the canvassers or the voters?—I will exactly state the fact: The people who went out to canvass, their route was made up at Saint Mary's Hall, they were sent to the Goal Hall, to receive what was necessary for the route, ten-pence or a shilling a mile; then, when a voter had voted, he went to Saint Mary's Hall, and from there they might be sent to the Fleur de lis.

Were they referred to any particular person at the Fleur de lis for the same purpose?—I believe they were.

What was that purpose?—I heard several persons referred from St. Mary's Hall to the Fleur de lis, to Mr. Perkins and his son: he is not the mayor, Mr. Mullis is the mayor.

Do you happen to know from the same source for what purpose they were sent?—I believe to be paid the common expences of their journey, and to have the business completely wound up as to the country voters; I firmly believe after he had voted, the expence of his journey and every thing was compleated, and I believe there he was paid.

Was there any regulation of expence, or was it discretionary?—It was regulated, as I firmly believe, by the distance the voters came.

From any regulation that you yourself was privy to, do you know that that was the mode?

—He was sent from Saint Mary's Hall to the Goal Hall; then he voted, and then was sent to the Fleur de lis, where he was paid.

Mr. Mills. You are a partner with Mr. Carter?—I am.

Was you at any one period of the election as the attorney, or to your knowledge was Mr. Carter as the attorney, employed by Mr. Barlow for any one purpose?—Mr. Carter, like myself, was a volunteer, and every professional man who acted with us was a volunteer, except Mr. Payne.

Could Mr. Carter have been employed, circumstanced as he was with you as an agent for Mr. Barlow, without your knowledge?—Impossible.

Then I am to understand yo u to say upe your oath Mr. Carter was not employed in th character of an agent in that election?—To my knowledge he was not.

Mr. Carter, I am told by Mr. Mason, acted at the booth?—He did.

He checked the books?—He did.

Other people acted, who were fixed there to see that the election was carried on fairly?—Yes.

Do you know of any appointment by Captain Barlow, even to that?—No, he did not know of it, I will answer for it.

Are not those arrangements necessary at elections?—Ever.

I do not understand you to say that Captain Barlow did not see these gentlemen act?—No, certainly not.

I ask whether Mr. Barlow appointed or knew of his being appointed to that business?—Certainly not, according to my knowledge.

Do you recollect during the election, any

one act done by you or Mr. Carter that was referred to Captain Barlow for his approbation?—Certainly not.

Do you know of any one instance in which Mr. Carter stood, acting under the direction of Mr. Barlow?—Certainly not.

Could he have been acting under the direction of Capt, Barlow without your knowledge?—Certainly not.

Then you are satisfied Mr. Carter did not act as an agent?—I am satisfied Mr. Carter as myself, acted as a volunteer.

We will now come to the period of Mr. Barlow's appearance; Mr. Barlow was a candidate independant of Mr. Jefferys?—Totally so.

At the time of the adoption of Mr. Barlow by the drapers company, did you hear of Mr. Jefferys being joined and linked to him at all?—Certainly not.

Then for a time during the election, the interest of these gentlemen, and their names were distinct?—Yes, and their advertisements were separate.

In the course of the election did they advertize jointly?—They did.

You have said distinctly, you never had any conversation with Mr. Jefferys, with respect to any money, any contribution, or any thing of that sort?—No.

My reason for asking is, it has been declared by a person upon oath, that you came from the corporation with a message to Mr. Jefferys, and demanded a security of 500l. he not being able to advance above 500l.i. here any truth in that fact?—None.

Had you any conversation about a security demanded by the corporation from Mr. Jef-

fery's, respecting the election, for election purposes?—No such thing, none at all.

Did the corporation ever send you or authorize you with a message, respecting money, or security for money about the election?—Never.

When you adopted Mr. Jefferys, did you adopt him upon any money contract?—None; we adopted Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, approving of them.

For what did you subscribe 500l.?—To defray the honorable expences of the election.

Did you empower any person to make use of any of that money, but for the fair and honourable expences of the election?—I never empowered any one.

The 200l. that you drew, you drew on behalf of the corporation, to pay the corporation and the sheriff's counsel?—I did.

So that the two hundred pounds, paid to Mr. Morris, was out of the fund the corporation subscribed?—It was.

In the course of your observations at the committee, and at any time during the election, did you see any money applied by persons or asked for by persons except for the canvassing, and payment of the outvoters their travelling expences?—I did not; I saw no misapplication of any money, if I had, I think I should have checked it.

You know of no other established committee for the management of the election, but that at the Goal Hall?—I do not.

You was acting as a committee-man; was you appointed there by Mr. Barlow, or did you act, wishing to support the election?—We were all self created; I never had any conference with Mr. Barlow upon the subject.

Did you think it necessary to confer with him at all?—No.

Did you ever report for the approbation of either Mr. Jefferys or Mr. Barlow, what had been done?—No.

Had you, during the course of the election, any communication with Mr. Barlow respecting the proceedings of these meetings?—No.

Did you canvass with Mr. Barlow?—He did not canvass.

Could he canvass?—Not without danger of his life; I would not have gone with him.

How long have you been town clerk?—Twenty years.

Why would you not have gone with him?—From danger.

Did Mr. Carter canvass with him?—No, certainly not.

Do you know of any act Mr. Carter did as the agent of Mr. Barlow, by his appointment?—No, all he did was as a volunteer.

You never saw any of those voters at the Fleur de lis?—I never was at the Fleur de lis.

Have you any reason to believe that any one of the committee were acting as agents, under the direction of Mr. Barlow?—Certainly not.

Could they have been the agents of Mr. Barlow, or waiting for his approbation without your knowing it, who transacted the business with them?—Certainly not.

Do you know any thing of Mr. Perkins being appointed an agent?—Never.

Was he a zealous supporter of the interest?—A very zealous supporter.

Do you know of any act he did during the election, as the agent of Mr. Barlow?—Never.

Nor by his direction?—I know of none.

You have been, I think, twenty years town clerk of the corporation?—I have.

You are therefore perfectly well acquainted with the nature of Sir Thomas White's charity?—I am.

I understand it has been distributed about Trinity fair, sometime in May and June?—I believe those are the times in the book.

The way in which it is distributed, I understand is this; the city consists of ten wards?—Yes.

Aldermen presiding over each?—Yes.

There being aldermen, council, and other people, each man in that council has an opportunity of proposing or objecting to the distribution of the money?—Doubtless.

Either as to the delay, the time of distribution, or the objects?—Every member of the council has a right.

Of what number does the council consist?—I believe the present number is twenty three, they cannot exceed thirty-one; I believe it is three or four and twenty.

I believe as to the time of distribution, though five years is limited, the corporation have entered into a rule not to give it more than once in eight years?—This is the rule.

The mode of recommending objects, I understand to be this: before it is distributed each alderman, or member of the council in each ward, brings a list of the objects who are to receive it?—Yes.

And then the aldermen or council who have an opportunity of knowing those persons recommend them?—Yes.

So that there is an opportunity for any gentleman, of any other ward objecting if they

chuse?—Yes, I have known the names struck, frequently from the circumstances of their having received it once in the eight years before; from that circumstance alone, though they had been in great distress.

This list in general, I take it, is by courtesy adopted by the council, and there is no objection?—Yes.

You know the fact of the delay, that it was not distributed in May, June, or July?—It was not.

Are you aware from the month of May to the time of the distribution of any objection suggested by any member of the council, why the delay was made?—I never heard of any.

Do you remember any application from any person interested to accelerate it?—No.

Would you as the town clerk, have been the vehicle through which such application would have been made?—I don't know; it would have been mentioned at a house; I should have known, if I had attended at the house.

Suppose, during those months any person had chose to object to the delay and the distribution, had they not the means of summoning a council and accelerating it?—Yes.

Then you, as town clerk, must have known it?—Yes.

Was any such application made?—Not that I know of.

Then this money was distributed at the usual time, as to number of years, without any objection being made by any body?—I heard of none.

Who are these four persons petitioners; they are resident in London, are they not?—I don't know the men; they are not resident in Coventry.

Non-residents cannot receive it?—They cannot.

Do you suppose there may be six hundred people in the city of Coventry, whose necessities and families might well induce them to make the application?—I am sure that there are eight hundred families intitled to it as freemen, I mean either persons or families.

So that in the arrangement of the number of one hundred, it is only one eighth of the number who might be proper objects?—Yes.

As a member of the council or town clerk, have you ever heard any objection stated as to the objects to whom this charity was to be distributed?—Never.

Do you know of any application made to the council in favor of other objects and refused?—None.

Chairing has been mentioned; you have been twenty years an inhabitant of Coventry, was you present at the last chairing?—I was.

What do you suppose was the expence of it; there were ribbons I understand, in great profusion?—Yes.

And the expence very great?—Extremely great; I have always understood, that a moderate chairing cost a thousand pounds, and this was a great profusion.

Instead of giving the freemen a dinner, was any allowance given them?—I think they had an allowance of five shillings.

Upon the present occasion?—Yes, I think it was five shillings.

Instead of opening houses?—Yes.

What was the sum expended in those two days, the five shillings and the chairing?—I think one thousand two hundred pounds must have been expended upon the occasion; but t

is matter of opinion, there is always an unavoidable imposition in these things.

Mr. Const. With respect to Mr. Barlow, you say he had no knowledge of Mr. Carter being an agent?—Not that I know of; Captain Barlow was in the booth, and Mr. Carter was in the booth.

Perhaps the distinction turns upon our different ideas of what may be agent; was not Mr. Carter acting as an agent, and was not Mr. Barlow at his elbow?—Mr. Carter was checking the book; I was not much in the booth myself, not more than half an hour at a time, perhaps I was there every day, more or less. Mr. Carter was checking the poll.

Did you see him interfere as to voters; did you hear him argue questions?—He certainly did state objections.

And all without Mr. Barlow knowing of his being an agent?—Mr. Carter was a volunteer as well as myself; Mr. Barlow saw what he did certainly.

You do not know that Mr. Barlow approved it?—Not to my knowledge.

He took no notice of it?—I do not know that any understanding took place between Mr. Barlow and Mr. Carter, upon the subject of agency.

You never even made a report of what passed in the committee?—No.

Nor ever had any instructions from Mr. Barlow, what you should do?—Never.

The committee took the whole direction upon themselves, without Mr. Barlow's knowledge?—Yes.

Mr. Carter, you say never canvassed, that you know of?—Not that I know of.

Perhaps you were not with Mr. Carter dur-

ing the election?—He dined at the White Bear, and King's Head, with us.

I wish to know whether the dinner was for the reception of those who chose to come, or whether it was confined to the committees, and persons who acted in committees?—It was open to all.

Was there any instance of the scot not being paid?—It was open to all, and every one was to pay.

But it happened to be composed of the persons you mentioned?—It was open to the whole party.

What do you mean by the whole party?—Friends in the interest of Mr. Barlow; and I believe every body paid for their dinner.

You have told us that these distributions of charity for thirty years past have been in May, June, and July; you are only speaking from memory?—My clerk searched the books.

I did not perceive one in July; Mr. Mason made that observation?—I desired my clerk to look carefully over the book, and to give me the list after Mr. Mason and Mr. Pearman left my house. I desired the clerk would look over the book for the last forty years, and upon looking at that account I found they had been given in May, June, and July.

There were none from the year 1770, in July at all?—It was a remark of Mr. Mason and Mr. Pearman, the books are here and will speak for themselves.

You say there was no application to accelerate the distribution; was it not the duty of the Trustees?—No doubt of it.

In point of fact they did not take place?—They did not take place till October.

You say there are eight hundred families in

Coventry who would be entitled?—I stated it from my belief.

How many gifts are there?—I believe there were 105, or 106.

Who selects them out of that 800, that you think equally entitled?—I am not present.

Will the books tell us who were present on that day?—Yes certainly.

You have been asked if any body applied and was rejected? I believe the persons are named in the council.

The first application is to the Alderman of the Ward, and he produces his list of the objects he has selected. That list is laid before the house, for their approbation, and it is generally asked if they have received the four pounds within the eight years, and if there is any doubt, the book is referred to; t is possible a man may sneak in, but it is the object to prevent it. I do not mean to say that in every instance we may not have been deceived.

He must be approved of by the council of course?—Certainly.

You mean each ward recommends their quota?—There is an Alderman presiding, &c. The ward always meet together, and select an object, they present the object to the council, and if it is their opinion a man is an improper object he is struck off.

Then no man gets it but once in eight years?—No; not if we know it.

In the distribution that was made subsequent to the election, did any man get it who had before received it within the eight years?—No; within my knowledge.

Who is it that appoints the check-clerks in the poll-book at the election?—The Sheriff.

And he appointed Mr. Carter?—No; he was a volunteer.

You said you acted as a volunteer for Mr. Barlow?—Yes; and Mr. Jefferys.

What induced you to act as a volunteer?—Mr. Bird was the late member; we had a bill we deemed most important to the interest of the city, for the regulating the poor: to take it out of the hands of the overseers, and place it in the hands of persons called directors. Mr. Bird presented a petition for bringing in our bill, and afterwards an application was made to him, in consequence of which he became an enemy to the bill.—That was the reason. The bill was carried, but it was opposed in parliament.

Then it was from disliking your former representative that induced you to propose Captain Barlow?—Yes.

If any other person had started instead of Captain Barlow, should you have supported him?—People might have been introduced into Coventry that I should not have supported; I should have supported any person that I should approve; Captain Barlow being in the army I approved him. I knew from Colonel Elliott, who is in the same regiment with Captain Barlow, that I could have no objection to him. The dislike to Mr. Bird was with all the principal people, a few exceptions.

The committee at the Goal Hall were composed of the six gentlemen you have mentioned. Was it a committee for the purpose of managing the joint interest of Mr. Jefferys, or separate?—Joint interest.

Did that committee draw the money which was applied by the subscriptions for the joint purposes?—Undoubtedly.

Would you have supported Mr. Barlow, or do you believe Mr. Barlow would have been supported if he had not subscribed fifteen hundred pounds towards the expences?—Every body who knows any thing of an election at Coventry must know it could not be conducted without a reasonable sum of money. I certainly should not; I should have said it is ineffectual, and I don't chuse to expose myself. I do not mean to say I should not have supported Mr. Barlow if he had not paid fifteen hundred pounds particularly; but if it had been necessary, twelve hundred pounds, or any other definite sum: no more was wished than was absolutely necessary to pay the fair expences of the election. I would not have supported any body throwing themselves upon the town, who said we cannot spend money.

You are an old inhabitant of Coventry, what is your estimate of the expences of the last election paid and unpaid?—I should think the expences paid and unpaid, must amout to from three to four thousand pounds; when every thing is all wound up and settled, it will in all human probability, amount to near four thousand pounds.

I am talking of the expences that committee have incurred altogether?—I should suppose about four thousand pounds, but it is matter of opinion; because the expences of the election are not yet added up, but every body knows we have the most imposing demands made upon committees, but when the whole is wound up, I should suppose the whole would be under four thousand pounds.

What is the estimate of the whole of the demands?—I cannot tell.

Do you know what sum is owing?—No; I

have nothing upon which I can make that estimate.

The expences are not yet paid?—They are not.

Mr. Woodcock has said the money was looked at and found right, do you know who it was that found that right?—I do not know.

Do you know how much remained in the purse at the close of the election?—I believe there is some money left in the purse now, but how much I do not know; I believe the expences of the election had consumed by much the greater part; but I do not know what remains.

Do you know whether Mr. Carter everhad any money out of that purse?—I do not believe he ever had a shilling; not to my knowledge.

Do you recollect Colonel Brooke being at Coventry?—Yes, I had an interview with him, on the Saturday morning previous to the poll.

What brought you into conversation with Colonel Brooke?—I understood Colonel Brooke was at the King's-Head with a view of offering himself, and I went there to him.

Do you know of any proposition made to Colonel Brooke on the score of the money he was to stand, if he became a candidate?—Not of my own knowledge; for when I was introduced to Colonel Brooke, in less than ten minutes the house was surrounded by five hundred men, with mazarine blue flags, and checked all communication between Colonel Brooke and the gentlemen of Coventry; and therefore he went away. He found the town in a dreadful state of tumult and riot; Mrs. Brooke was extremely ill, and he thought the

prospect of the thing such, that he did not chuse to go any further.

I understand you never gave any account whatever to Captain Barlow, of the expences of the committee?—Certainly not.

Now why should you think that a gentleman who lodged 1500l. in your hands, as a committee, should require no account of it?—I am confident the moment Captain Barlow wished he might see an account.

That is no answer; I want to know the reason why no account has been given to Captain Barlow of so large an expenditure as 1500l.?—I cannot give you a reason why Mr. Barlow has never said a syllable on the subject of the account.

Then I am to understand that Captain Barlow in your view of the subject, deposited the money, subject to the direction, whatever it might be, of the joint committee?—I do believe so.

Suppose the debt incurred in consequence of this election, were to amount to more than the sum already subscribed to, whom should you look to pay the deficiency?—To Captain Barlow, in part certainly: he would be called upon to contribute his proportion.

Then Captain Barlow, in your estimation, was not to be exonerated for the sum of 1500l.?—I know of no such agreement to exonerate him.

You conceive that the committee have still a claim upon Captain Barlow, for any deficiency between the amount subscribed, and the amount expended?—Yes.

Was your conversation with Colonel Brooke, before Captain Barlow had declared himself a candidate?—Yes.

If Colonel Brooke had started as a candidate for Coventry, would you have supported him? —I would.

Would you have subscribed as you have for Captain Barlow?—I would.

If Sir Robert Peele had stood, would you have supported him?—Yes.

You think the freemen had five shillings a piece for their dinners?—They had.

Has that been customary at former elections?—Yes, I think Colonel Holroyd and Lord Sheffield gave it them upon a card; five shillings is, I believe, the usual sum for the chairing dinner. The successful party always gives a dinner or five shillings.

And the losing party?—I do not know about that; I am not certain that the defeated candidates gave a dinner.

Did the defeated candidate in this instance? —I do not know whether they did or not.

I think you stated that you never had any conversation with Captain Barlow for the purposes of this election?—Every thing I heard upon the subject of money was from Mr. Woodcock.

You have told us you conceive there is a claim upon Captain Barlow, supposing his share of the expences should exceed that 1500l.—I do.

If you have had no conversation with Captain Barlow, and seen no agreement signified by him, upon what ground is it you conceive you will have that claim?—From a conversation with Mr. Woodcock.

This is the only ground?—Yes; I had some conversation with Mr. Woodcock upon the subject of expence with respect to Captain Bar-

low, and with Mr. Dickens upon the subject of expence with respect to Mr. Jefferys.

Is the expence of the chairing paid?—I believe it is paid.

Was the expence of the chairing paid out of that purse?—Yes, by no other means I am sure.

What should you think the probable expence of the election for Coventry on the one side?—It depends so much upon the management; an extravagant management would very much enlarge the expenditure; a cautious one would diminish it. In this there was the utmost caution used; I do not know that more could be used: We knew very well it was not to be carried by extravagance, each voter having two votes, it makes but little difference whether there are two candidates or but one. I should suppose the expence of the election to the sitting member would be about 4000l.

Do you think the present was a profuse expenditure?—I never knew, I think, so œconomical a one: one great charge of expences at former elections, has been agency; but in this instance all the solicitors volunteered as agents except Mr. Payne. I have known the expence of agency alone, to the solicitors amount to 1000l.; it is that, that makes the expences so moderate.

What were the expences of the Hustings?—I think about 40l.

Do you include poll clerks?—Yes.

What do you suppose the expence of the poll clerks?—About ten pounds with the officers.

And the expence of the agency hardly any thing?—Hardly any thing.

Did not the gentlemen on the opposite side pay the sheriffs or counsel?—Not a shilling: The sheriff is a part of the corporation; they subscribe five hundred pounds, and out of that five hundred pounds the sheriff's counsel was paid.

The 1200l. that you state to be the expence of the chairing, is that statement the result of any accurate investigation?—No, I heard the chairing of one gentleman estimated at so much, and of another gentleman estimated at so much: one manufacture is a ribbon one, and common people expect a profusion of these sort of things.

Did I understand you, that every member of the council had a right to nominate for Sir Thomas White's charity?—No, the aldermen of the ward prepared a list, and at his council it was canvassed over, and if any objection the name was struck out.

Then the approbation, or disapprobation, depends upon the majority?—Undoubtedly.

THOMAS WEBB *called in and sworn.*

You live at Coventry?—Yes.

Was you at the last election?—Yes.

Do you recollect going to Coleshill for one Johnson?—Yes.

Before you went there, had you any conversation with Captain Barlow?—No.

Did you see Captain Barlow before you went to Coleshill?—No.

Did you bring Johnson to Coventry?—Yes

Did he poll?—Yes.

After he had polled, had you any conversation with Captain Barlow?—No.

Who did he poll for?—Mr. Barlow only.

Had you at any time, any conversation about

fetching him?—I was at Coleshill the day before the poll; I was with Johnson.

Had you any conversation with Captain Barlow about fetching him, at any time before you fetched him?—No, I had not.

After he had polled, did you take him any where to get his expences?—I took him first to the King's-head, where he had what he liked to drink; then I took him to St. Mary's Hall, and Mr. Payne wrote his name upon a piece of paper, and he said take this down to the Fleur de lis, to Mr. Perkins. He said he has been here enquiring for you; I then took the paper, went down to the Fleur de lis, and enquired for Mr. Perkins, he said he will give him a guinea; they took him into the parlour, I stood at the door; Johnson brought a guinea out in his hand, and said, "was I to have any more."

Did you see Mr. Perkins at the Fleur de lis?—Yes.

Did you see Mr. Perkins pay him any money?—He either gave him a guinea or caused it to be given; I delivered the note myself to Mr. Perkins.

Mr. Perkins was there for the purpose of paying money?—Yes.

You was at Coleshill twice?—The day before the poll I was at Coleshill.

Upon your return from Coleshill, had you any conversation with Captain Barlow?—I went to the King's Head, after I returned the first day at night, Mr. Barlow ordered me to go to the committee, upon which I went to the committee at St. Mary's Hall.

For what purpose?—To receive orders respecting the fetching this man.

How far is Coleshill from Coventry?—About twelve miles.

Did you see any body at the committee at Saint Mary's Hall, besides Mr. Payne?—Yes; Mr. Twist an attorney, and I saw Mr. Woodcock there.

Any body else?—Mr. Wilmot, I think.

And body else?—I saw Mr. Crump there, and I saw Mr. Mullis the mayor there.

What day was this?—The first day of the poll at night, Johnson polled the next day.

Was Mr. Troughton there?—Yes, I saw Mr. Troughton there.

Was Alderman Williamson there?—I cannot say.

What is Johnson's Christian name?—Thomas.

[It appeared from the poll book that Thomas Johnson of Billisworth voted for Mr. Barlow.]

Was Alderman Howlett there?—No.

Alderman Whitwell?—I do not think I saw him there.

Mr. Goode?—I saw Mr. Goode pass and repass to the committee, during the election.

Mr. Sharpe?—I saw Mr. Sharpe go backwards and forwards to the committee during the election.

Was you in the habit of going backwards and forwards to the Goal Hall, and St. Mary's Hall?—I was employed to get in out-voters.

How did this voter travel from Coles-hill to Coventry?—He walked part of the way, and the rest of the way I brought him with the mail coach.

How did he travel back again?—I do not know; he stopped at the Kings's Head a day or two.

Were you employed to bring in many other voters?—Yes.

Mr. Const. We will now go to the charities.

[Extracts of the minutes of counsel, 14th day of October, 1802; read containing the names of 106 persons who received Sir Thomas White's charity.]

SAMUEL STRINGER *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?—At Coventry.

What are you?—A glover.

Are you a voter for Coventry?—Yes.

Do you remember seeing Alderman Howlett at the time of the election, before you voted?—No, before the election.

Where did you see him?—I had some little conversation with him at his own house.

[Upon an objection taken by the committee, the court was cleared, when they came to the following resolution:

That, without entering at present into any question respecting the agency, or the intent with which Sir Thomas White's charity is stated to have been withheld; none of the 106 voters will be disqualified, except it be proved that any of them voted in consequence of a previous promise.

Adjourned.

February 26th, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

JOSEPH SWAIN *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?
At Leicester.
Have you a vote for Coventry?
Yes.
Was you at Coventry at the time of the last election?
Yes I was.
Who did you vote for?
For Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.
Do you remember seeing Mr. Carter the attorney?
Yes.
Did any thing pass between you and Mr. Carter, about your intended vote?
Yes.
Tell us what passed?
He asked me for my vote, for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.
Where did you first go when you arrived at Coventry?
To the White Bear.
Who did you see there?
I saw Mr. Carter there, and several other people that I knew.
Did you see Mr. Jefferys or Mr. Barlow there?
Yes, I saw them both there.
Were they with Mr. Carter.
I did not see him with them; I saw Mr. Barlow first.
What passed between you and Mr. Barlow?

When first I saw Mr. Barlow, he handed me out of the chaise, and shook hands with me.

Any thing else?

Yes, he called for some hot brandy and water, I then drank to his good health; then he asked me to go up stairs and have something to eat.

Did you go up?

Yes, I went up, and saw several men there. I went up stairs with three more that came from Leicester.

Did you see Mr. Carter there?

When supper was over Mr. Carter came into the room, and said, Swain, I want to speak to you: we went out of the room on to the landing of the stairs, when we got there, we shook hands together, and he asked whether I would serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; I told him I would, but I would not without I had ten guineas; Mr. Carter told me he could not make me any promise at all; I then bid him good night.

Did you go away?

No; I bid him good night, and good night for ever.

Those were the words, were they?

Yes.

Then Mr. Carter came, and laid hold of me by the right arm, and said come back, that will not do: he then took me into a room away from my wife.

Did your wife go with you from Leicester?

No, she was at Coventry before me; she saw me come in, in the chaise, and she followed the chaise, and came to me.

Was your wife upon the landing of the stairs with you?

Yes.

Then she was present at the conversation.

I believe she was; Mr. Carter then took me into the room, we met a young woman coming out of the room; when we got into the room, Mr. Carter asked me whether I meant to serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys: I told him I would; but I would not without the money.

Did he ask you to serve Mr. Jefferys only, or Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

What did he say to you then?

He said, Swain, make yourself easy about the money, and you shall have it? he then put his hand into his waistcoat pocket, and pulled out some gold. He took ten guineas from some others, and held them in his right hand, this way, and his head the other, and said take it Swain, and you shall want for nothing.

Did you take the money from him then?

No, I had a favour to ask Mr. Carter, which I did not wish my wife to hear.

You said your wife was not present at this conversation?

She came into the room.

Before or after you had received the money from Mr. Carter?

She came in after I had received the money.

What did you do then?

Mr. Carter then took me into another room.

Had you told him you wanted him?

I told him I had a favour to ask him; my wife was in the room when I told him I wanted to speak with him: he took me into another room, and I asked him if he would be so kind as to get me the corporation 50l.

What 50l. do you mean?

The 50l. that is granted by the corporation to freemen; he told me I should have it. We

then returned back again to the room where I had left my wife; with that I told her Mr. Carter had given me the ten guineas.

Was Mr. Carter there when you told her so?

Yes he was.

Was he in such a situation in the room that he could have heard it?

He came out of the room, when I had asked him the favour of the 50l. into the other room where I had left my wife. I told her I had got the ten guineas, my wife told me I should not have it.

Was Mr. Carter present then?

Yes.

Was he near enough to hear what passed.

He was in the room; but I cannot say whether he heard it or not.

What size room was it?

I cannot be positive what size room it was.

Was it as large a room as this?

I do not believe it was so large a room as this.

How near was Mr. Carter to you, when your wife said this.

I did not take particular notice how near he was.

Was Mr. Carter talking to any body else in the room.

No, there was not any body else in the room but Mr. Carter, myself, and my wife.

What did you or Mr. Carter say to that?

With that I returned Mr. Carter the ten guineas again.—He said you had better keep it, and you shall want for nothing.—I told him I would see him the next morning, with that I bid him good night.—He then asked me to stop and sleep there all night, and go and poll the next morning early.

Mr. Carter took back the ten guineas?

Yes.

He asked you to sleep at the White Bear Inn?

Yes.

Did you sleep at the White Bear?

No, I did not.—I told him my mother had provided a bed for me, I had not seen her some time, and I must go and sleep there.

Your mother lived in Coventry.

Yes? then I bid him good night, and my wife and I went away.

Did you see any thing of Mr. Carter after that?

I did not see any thing more of him that night.—I saw him the next day.—He promised me he would come up to my mother's in good time in the morning, but he did not come.

Where next did you see him?

I saw him the next day in the street, but I did not take any notice of him; I did not speak to him, nor he did not speak to me.

Nothing more passed then between you and Mr. Carter?

Not that I can recollect.

You afterwards voted for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes; the next morning I got in on the Thursday night, and polled on the Friday morning.

When you went up to poll, did you see Mr. Barlow there?

Yes.

Did any thing pass there?

Not in words while I was in the lane going to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore; there were two voting at the time, I stood in a lane. They had two to poll on the other side, and I

stood while polled.—While I stood there, Mr. Barlow looked over the side of the board, and beckoned me to come to him. I had occasion to go out of the lane to make water, and I went out. Mr. Barlow seemed very much pleased, I expected he thought I was coming to him; I then went to the lane and voted.

As the last thing you voted, I suppose you took the bribery oath?

I did.

You are a journeyman dyer?

Yes.

How long had you lived in Coventry before you went to Leicester?

I was born in Coventry.

You was settled at this time in Leicester?

Yes, I was.

You know Mr. Carter extremely well?

Yes, perfectly well.

He knew you extremely well?

I cannot say for that; he has seen me many times.

Had you never seen Mr. Barlow before?

Not to my knowledge till the night before I voted.

That was the first time when you saw Mr. Barlow, that he handed you out of the chaise?

Yes.

As you know Coventry, and the White Bear extremely well, be so good as tell me where was Mr. Barlow standing—How near the Inn when you got out of the chaise?

He was standing at the door of the chaise.

Where was the chaise?

The chaise stopped in the yard.

Was Mr. Jefferys there?

Yes, I saw Mr. Jefferys there.

Do you know Mr. Pickard?

There are several Mr. Pickard's about Coventry.

William Pickard, a stay maker?

I cannot say that I know him.

Do you know John Marson?

Yes, in Spon Street.

Who were in the chaise with you?

Isaac Keen, Robert Palmer, and William Richardson.

What time of the day might this be when you got into Coventry?

I think about seven o'clock in the evening, or thereabout.

Of course quite light?

It was not dark, it was lightish.

How many miles is it from Leicester to Coventry?

Twenty-six I believe.

You was quite sober?

I cannot say I was quite sober, I had had some little liquor; I will not say I was perfectly sober, I had had but little.

Therefore you could not be quite sober?

I was no ways drunk.

You was not drunk?

No, I was not drunk.

You swear you was not drunk?

No, I was not drunk.

That you swear?

Yes, I do.

If I understand you, you went up into the room of the White Bear; you know the White Bear?

Yes, I know it very well.

Which room was it?

A room on the right hand side up stairs.

Which room?

It was a room on the right hand side.

Of the principal stair case?

It was a room up stairs on the right hand side where we supped.

Were there a good many people there?

There was a few people, I suppose there might be eight or ten.

Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow were not in that room?

Not when I first went into the room.

Did your wife go into that room with you?

Yes, she followed me up stairs.

Was any supper laid on the table at that time?

Yes, there was a cloth laid, and there was some loin of veal upon the table cold.

Did you sup immediately—Or did Mr. Carter speak to you before you supped?

No, it was after supper that Mr. Carter spoke to me.

Did you sit down at supper?

Yes.

How many people sat down to the supper?

There was us four sat down at the supper, and I believe one of the Watkins's.

What is his Christian name, or describe him by his trade?

I believe he is a horse dealer.

Living in Coventry?

Yes.

Having supped, was Mr. Carter waiting at table, or attending the people at supper?

No.

Was he in the room during your eating supper?

The first I saw of Mr. Carter in that room was after supper; he came and said, Swain I want to speak to you.

He shook hands with you, and asked if you had come for Barlow and Jefferys?

He asked me whether I would vote for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

You said you would?

Yes.

That was the first thing that passed?

Yes.

You said that without any qualification—you did not say you would if such and such a thing was done?

No, I told him I would, but I said I would not without I had ten guineas.

What was the first answer you gave to Mr. Carter?

Mr. Carter first asked me how I did, we shook hands; and then he asked me if I would vote for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and I said I would, that was the whole of the first answer.

Then how long was it before it came into your mind that you might qualify this by a demand of ten guineas. How long was it before you said I will not vote unless you will give me ten guineas?

It was not long—It was the next question he asked me, or thereabouts.

When that answer was given, was any thing said by Mr. Carter or you to put ten guineas into your head?

I told him I would not without I had ten guineas.

Your wife did not suggest it did she?

She was not by at the time.

Did she advise you?

No.

So then it was your own idea?

Yes.

So that you plumply told him you would not vote for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, unless

you had ten guineas without any concealment at all?

None.

Your wife met you by accident as you got out of the chaise?

No, my wife went to Coventry to my mother a night or two before she was expecting me to come, and was waiting for me.

Your wife went up stairs with you?

She followed the chaise to the White Bear.

There was no body there but your wife when you made that demand?

Not to my knowledge, only me, Mr. Carter and my wife.

Was Watkins there when you was upon this landing place?

No, when I saw Watkins we were in the room at supper.—There was nobody upon the landing place, but Mr. Carter, and me and my wife.

Mr. Carter's answer was he could not make you any promise at all?

That was the first answer.

The first question was whether you would vote for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, and you said yes you would; and then you said you would not vote unless he would give you ten guineas, and he answered he would not make any promise at all?

Yes.

Then you wished him a good night?

Yes.

Then he took you into another room?

No, he followed me, and caught me by the right arm, and said, Swain that won't do.

That would not do;—did nothing else pass?

I cannot tell what was his meaning, those were his words.

He took you into the room?

He took me away from my wife, upon the landing of the stairs into a room, and selected ten guineas from some money which he took out of his pocket.

He did not look at it?

Yes, he looked at it, I expect, and counted it, and turning his head, gave it to me.

Was it all gold, or notes, or how?

It was all golden guineas I believe.

It was in his waistcoat pocket like a fashionable man?

Yes, it was from his waistcoat pocket.

All guineas?

Yes.

And then gave you ten, turning his head away?

Yes.

Did you turn your head away when you took it?

I took it from his hand.

You saw that it was good?

I looked at it and counted it.

Were they all new guineas?

I cannot tell; there was no half guineas nor seven shilling pieces.

What pocket did you happen to put them into?

I put them in no pocket at all, I kept them in my hand.

Walked out of the room with ten guineas in your hand, and met your wife?

No, my wife came into the room to me and Mr. Carter while I had the money in my hand, I told her Mr. Carter had given me ten guineas, and she said "you shall not have it."

What did she say?

She told me I should not have it.

In what way?

She made use of no other expression, than that "you shall not have it".

Did you shew the pretty things to her?

I held them in my hand, I am not positive whether she saw them or not.

Did you not shew them to her?

I cannot recollect that I did shew them to her.

She was near you I suppose?

Yes.

She might have seen them?

She might if she had chose to look at them.

Upon her saying that, you returned them to Mr. Carter?

Yes I did.

She saw that I suppose?

I believe she did, she was close by me.

When you returned them to Mr. Carter, did he count them to see that you had not slipped one into your pocket?

I cannot tell whether he did or not. I am not positive, I did not see him count them.

Did he hold his hand then, or did you force them into his hand?

He held his hand for them, and I put them into his hand.

What did he do with them then?

He held them in his hand for some time.

Was the door open?

No; it was shut.

Who shut it?

I expect the young woman that went out of the room when we went in shut it, I cannot tell.

But your wife came in a little after, and she must have opened it?

Yes she did; but I am not positive who shut it.

Was there no precaution of locking the door?

No; I did not see the door locked.

Your wife came in, and any body; she might have come in?

I cannot say about that.

Look at this gentleman, I suppose you mean this gentleman?

Yes; that is the gentleman, I know Mr. Carter.

Having returned him the ten guineas, you rather wished for something else?

Yes.

Was that because you could not keep the ten guineas; should you have asked for that if you had kept the ten guineas?

Yes.

You returned the ten guineas in good humour, I suppose it had not at all affected your intention of voting?

Not at all.

You was determined to vote, and yet you wanted something for your vote?

Yes.

As your wife would not let you have the ten guineas, you wanted something as good?

I asked him if he would be so good as to let me have the corporation fifty pounds.

Upon you putting this to Mr. Carter, the fifty pounds loan, he said you should have it?

Yes.

With respect to that fifty pounds loan, is it not known to every man in Coventry, that it cannot be given to any but freemen, actually residing there, upon your oath?

I do not understand what you mean.

Do you not know that a freeman of Coventry living in London, could not have the fifty pounds given him?

I do not live in London.

Do you not know that a man living in Leicester could not have it?

I did not know that.

Do you not know that this fifty pounds loan, and the four pounds that is given, must be given to resident freemen?

I never heard any thing like that, that I know of, I am not positive that ever I did.

Upon your oath did you not?

I did not.

Did you know what the nature of the gift was?

I did not know that they would not let them have it that did not reside in the town. I did not know at that time.

When did you first know it?

I have heard it since.

Upon your oath you did not know at the time the election took place, did you not know that those gifts of four pounds, and the loan of fifty pounds, was confined to resident freemen of Coventry?

No; I cannot say that I did.

Will you swear you did not?

I did not know except a man resided in the town. I did not know he could have it if he resided out of the town.

You swear that?

I do.

When did you first hear, or when was you

first told, that none but resident freemen would have that gift?

It was William Jones, a frieser.

What is a frieser?

Something in the leather branch, he told me after the election was over; he had asked for four pounds, and was informed, except they lived in the town they could not have it. I did not know that before.

Where does Jones live?

He lives now in London; he did live at Leicester at that time.

You did not see Mr. Carter again?

He did not come to me the next morning.

And you polled for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

You saw Mr. Barlow?

Yes; looking out at the side of the Booth.

Do you happen to recollect when he handed you out of the chaise, any one person that was near the chaise?

No; the first person that I saw, besides those who were in the chaise with me, that I knew, was Mr. Jefferys.

That was after you was handed out?

Yes.

The waiters you know in general are very civil; the landlord and the waiters were very attentive to you?

I believe there were several servants thereabouts.

Then all these people who saw you, must have seen whether you were drunk or sober?

Yes; they certainly must.

Why then you did not appear in the room to be drunk at all?

I could not appear to be drunk, if I was not drunk.

Then it did not happen that you might be sick a little?

I was no way sick.

Then it did not happen that your stomach was a little out of order, and what with your noise, and drunkenness, and sickness, before you had been three minutes in the room, they were obliged to take you down stairs?

I do not remember any thing of that.

But will you swear the fact did not happen; will you swear you were not taken out of the room, because you was so drunk, noisy, and sick, that nobody could bear the room where you was?

There was nothing of that sort to my knowledge.

Will you swear you was not taken out of the room, because you was not fit to remain in it?

I will.

Then you will swear you was not taken out of the room on that account?

I was not taken out of the room, till Mr. Carter called me out.

At any part of that evening was you taken out of that room and carried away on account of drunkenness?

Not to my knowledge.

You must know whether you were or not?

I cannot recollect any thing of the kind.

You say you was not drunk; you must recollect whether you was taken out?

I was not.

Neither before or after Mr. Carter took you out of the room, was you taken out on account of drunkenness or sickness?

I was not.

I ask you again, whether you was not at any time that evening sent out of the room or taken out of the room by William Pickard and Marson, because you were so sick and drunk, that the people in the room could not bear it?

I never saw Mr. Pickard there.

Will you swear you was not taken out of the room?

Yes.

Or ordered out of the room?

Not to my knowledge.

But you was not drunk, you must remember whether that was done or not?

Nothing of that kind was done.

You was not taken out of the room, or sent down stairs because you was drunk?

No.

And to the best of your knowledge you was not drunk?

No; I was not.

Then without any thing else passing between Mr. Carter and the other people, you went and polled for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I did the next morning.

How happened that conversation that took place between you and Jones; did he live in Coventry?

No; he lived in Leicester.

How happened the conversation about the fifty pounds?

The question objected to.

The Court cleared,

Resolved,

That the question cannot be put.

You said in your direct examination you knew Mr. Carter very well before you came to Coventry?

Yes; I knew him before I left Coventry very well. I knew him after very well.

How long have you resided in Leicester since you left Coventry?

About a year and a half.

Your wife lived with you there?

Yes.

How long were you married?

Four years last December.

And your wife lived with you the whole time you were living in Leicester?

No; not the whole time, she was sometime at Coventry at work.

How long before the election did she come to Coventry from Leicester?

As I went to Coventry on the Thursday, I believe she left Leicester on the Tuesday.

Do you think your wife would have gone to Coventry on that Tuesday, if it had not been for the election?

I do not think she would.

You would not have gone I suppose on the Thursday if it had not been for the election?

I should not.

By virtue of your oath, did your wife know at the time she left Leicester, who you would vote for at the Coventry election?

She did not.

By virtue of your oath, did you yourself know who you would vote for?

Yes; I was determined to serve Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Whose carriage did you go in from Leicester to Coventry?

I do not know; it went from the Three Cranes at Leicester.

Was it in a carriage paid for by Mr. Jeffe-

rys and Barlow, or paid for by Mr. Bird and Moore?

I believe it was paid for by Mr. Jefferys and Barlow.

What made you go in a carriage paid for by Mr. Barlow and Jefferys, as you was determined to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I was determined to see whether I had any friends or not.

What do you mean by that?

When my father was living, he had some houses upon a lease from the corporation, he is dead, and since that my mother has had them, and I expected if I served them, I might have them; but I did not serve them.

When you went to Coventry, did you make any effort to get this lease renewed?

No; I did not.

Was that the only act of friendship you expected when you arrived at Coventry?

Yes.

You say you went determined to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

How do you reconcile that with saying you were determined to see if you had any friends, if you were determined before hand to vote for Mr Bird and Mr. Mooore. I wish to understand you, you went to see if you had any friends, did you mean that that was to influence your vote?

I do not understand what you mean.

Suppose the corporation had agreed to give you a new lease of those premises; would you in that instance have voted for their friends against Mr. Moore?

I do not know but I might have done it if they had come forward.

Though you were determined in the first instance to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes; but I did not ask them that favour.

Though when you left Leicester you were resolved to see if you had any friends?

Yes.

And when you got to Coventry you did not make the trial?

No.

Who did the other voters that came in the carriage with you vote for?

One of them was a pauper.

Did he offer to vote?

Not to my knowledge; I do not know that he did or did not.

Did he leave Liecester intending to vote at the election?

Yes; he went with us to vote.

Do you know who he intended to vote for, if he had had a good vote?

I believe he intended to vote for Mr. Barlow and Jefferys.

What was that pauper named?

Palmer.

Who did William Richardson vote for?

He told me the night before, he would serve Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore; but in the morning he promised Mr. Payne he would serve Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

Who did he vote for?

I believe he voted for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Mr. Jefferys.

Who did Kean vote for?

I believe Kean voted for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

So that of the party that went in the carriage with you, you were the only person who voted for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Did you, before your wife left Leicester, tell her how you would vote?

I did not.

By virtue of your oath, did your wife know before you left Leicester, who you would vote for?

Not to my knowledge.

How many days before you left Leicester, had you determined to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

When I was first asked for my vote.

Was that before your wife left Leicester?

It was.

But you never told your wife who you would vote for?

Not positively.

Did you at all tell her?

I do not recollect that I did.

Were you canvassed by both parties at Leicester?

Yes; I was.

But you did not positively tell your wife whom you would vote for?

No; I did not.

Immediately upon your arrival in Coventry, when you told your wife you had got ten guineas, she told you to give it back?

No; she said "I should not have it."

How much do you earn by your trade?

A guinea a week.

Have you any income independent of your trade?

No; nothing but my own hand labour.

You had ten guineas in your hand, and your wife said you should not have it?

Yes.

Ten guineas to a man earning a guinea a week, is a great deal of money?

Yes.

I suppose you have not very often ten guineas at a time?

I have a little money of my own that I have saved by my own industry.

Have you any family?

No; only my wife and myself.

How came your wife to say "you should not have it?"

It was by her desire that I should not serve the cause.

How came your wife to be on the opposite side?

I believe her father and the whole family were friends of that party.

Then I suppose they supported Mr. Bird before?

I believe they did.

Had they voted for Mr. Moore before?

I don't know that they ever did.

Had they ever voted for Mr. Jefferys before?

Not to my knowledge.

Did you ever vote yourself except at the last election?

Never.

The only request was, that you made of Mr. Carter was ten guineas, and to get you from the corporation fifty pounds?

Yes; I asked him those two favours.

He gave you the ten guineas, and promised you the fifty pounds?

He told me I should have it.

Then if Mr. Carter granted you every thing you asked, why did not you vote for his friend instead of the opposite party?

I could not enjoy the principle in my own heart to vote for them.

Why could not you enjoy the principle in your own heart?

Because I would always serve the other party.

What made you then take ten guineas from the one party, if the principle of your own heart would not let you vote for them?

I told you before, I wished to see if I had any friends or not.

What made you take the ten guineas?

I was trying whether I had any friends or not.

If your wife had not made you give back the ten guineas, would you have kept the ten guineas?

I believe I should.

And if they had gave you the corporation fifty pounds, would you have taken it?

Yes; I should.

And would you in that case have voted for Mr. Carter's friends?

Had they given that, I believe I should.

Now how do you account for this; you say that if they had given you the ten guineas and the fifty pounds, you would have voted for them; they gave you ten guineas and promised you the fifty pounds, what made you vote for the opposite party?

I wished to do it, I could not serve the other on any account.

You have said they promised you the fifty pounds, and had actually given you the ten guineas?

I believe if I had had the fifty pounds, and had the favour of the lease, I should have voted for them.

A minute ago, you said if you had got the fifty pounds along with the ten guineas, you would have voted for Barlow and Jefferys?

I believe I should.

Without the lease?

No; I don't think I should have voted for them without the lease.

You first said if you had got the corporation fifty pounds in addition to the ten guineas, you would have voted for Jefferys and Barlow?

I believe so if I had got the favour of the lease.

Would not you without the lease?

I am not positive, I cannot say that I should.

Would the three together have got over that principle in your mind; would not you then have voted for Barlow and Jefferys?

Yes, I believe I should have served them then.

Your wife desired you to give back the ten guineas?

She told me I should not have it.

By virtue of your oath, do you know of any other person besides yourself who took money for your vote from the opposite party?

I cannot recollect that I do.

Do you know of any other person—you know your wife came with you.—Who took money, or got any promise, or got any reward from Mr. Bird or Mr. Moore?

I cannot recollect that I do.

Was any promise made to your wife to your knowledge?

None to my knowledge.

You know of no offer or promise made to any person on account of your vote?

Not to my knowledge, not from the opposite party.

It is perfectly disinterested on your part; did you expect any thing?

Only a little, after I had voted to carry me back to my place of work.

What sum did you expect?

I dont know how much.

Did you think you might have more than ten guineas?

I did not know how much I might have.

You only expected something to carry you back to Leicester?

I expected I should have something to take me back to my work again.

You expected something—how much?

I did not expect any certain sum, I left that to their generosity to give what they thought proper.

Did you expect more or less—you were very disinterested, when you received ten guineas; did you expect more or less than ten guineas?

I did not expect any certain sum.

What reason had you to expect any thing?

I naturally expected something.

Upon your oath what reason had you to expect any more would be given you after your voting?

I had no other reason but something to carry me back to my work—I had no particular reason to expect it.

You say you expect something, what reason had you to expect any thing?

For voting for them.

What induced you to think that you would get any thing?

For serving the party; I could not have any other reason.

Did any one tell you if you supported the party that you would get any thing?

Yes; I heard I should have money to carry me back.

Who did you hear it from?

I heard it from my brother.

What sum did your brother tell you you would get if you voted for the opposite party?

I cannot recollect that he told me any sum;

Recollect yourself; it is a very serious thing to swear falsely in a Court of Justice, did you directly or indirectly hear from your brother whether you would get any certain sum?

No; he did not say any certain sum.

Did he know you had been offered ten guineas?

Yes; I told him what had passed, and he told me what he was to have.

Did he tell you whether it would be more or less than ten guineas?

I cannot recollect that he mentioned any certain sum.

When you were offered ten guineas certain, when you had it as in your hand, and had a promise of the fifty pounds, how came you to vote for the other when it was so uncertain?

I did it to enjoy the principle in my own heart.

And that principle made you prefer an uncertainty to a certainty?

Yes.

Would the principle of your own heart have carried you so far, as to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore except your brother had told you you would have something from the other side?

Yes, I should have voted for them whether I got any thing or not.

When did your brother tell you you would get something for voting for them?

The night before I voted, the same night I came into Coventry; it was at my mother's house.

Who do you consider your best friend in Coventry?

My mother.

Your election friends I mean?

Mr. Bird I believe is the best friend I have in Coventry in respect of the trade established in the place.

You were promised ten guineas which you took, and afterwards returned to Mr. Carter, and you expected to get something from the opposite party to take you back.—Did you get any thing from the other party?

Yes; after I had voted I went to the committee and received a guinea and a half.

From whom?

From some man in the place, I dont know who.

Did you get any more?

Not at that time; I had a present of 5s. made me by Mr. Charles Lilly.

Did you get any more from any other person?

No; not at that time.

Did you at any other time?

No.

You never got any more than a guinea and a half, and 5s.

Not at the election.

Did you since the election?

No.

Did you before the election?

No.

Then what do you mean by "at that time?"

I received this money in the afternoon, and had the present of five shillings at night.

And you never got more than those two sums, a guinea and a half, and five shillings on account of the election?

Not from the high party.

By virtue of your oath, do you know whether your wife got any thing for your vote?

Not to my knowledge.

Or any other person on your part?

Not to my knowledge.

What reason had you to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore for a guinea and a half and five shillings, when you were offered ten guineas on the opposite side?

I did not know how much I should have, I could not tell what sum.

Did you ever expect to get any more?

No; the moment I polled, I asked Mr. Bird what he would give me to pay my expences back, and he said he could not promise me any thing at all—that was as I was going to the booth.

Was you promised any more?

I asked him what he would give me to vote for him, and he said he could not promise any thing.

Before you came up to town, was you promised any thing to give evidence here?

No; I was not to my knowledge.

What do you mean by your knowledge; do you swear positively you was not promised any thing?

I cannot recollect; not on that party.

Did your wife at any time ever get any thing for your vote to your knowledge?

Not to my knowledge.

Did she ever tell you?

No; if she did I never knew it. She never told me.

Your wife went to Coventry a few days before the election?

Yes.

What brought her to Coventry a few days before the election?

My mother came to receive a dividend that was left her at Leicester, and my wife went with her; my wife said I must vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and I must not vote for any body else.

How did you go back from Coventry?

By the coach.

Had you any money given you to pay for the coach?

Only what I had given me by the committee.

Only the guinea and a half that you received at Mr. Bird's house.

Yes; and five shillings.

That was all you received to pay all your expences?

Yes.

And you do not now consider that you have any demand for any thing more?

No; I have not.

How did you go to Coventry?

In a post chaise.

How did you find the post chaise?

There was a post chaise at the Three Cranes that took four of us to Coventry.

How came you to go to the Three Cranes for a chaise?

Mr. Payne had been with me the night before, and told me of it.

When you came to Coventry, you went to the house where Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were?

Yes; the White Bear.

Being at the house in that way, you must naturally have been supposed to come to vote for the parties at whose expence you travelled?

To be sure.

Did you say any thing at supper of the way in which you meant to vote next day?

I do not recollect that I did.

And you know of no reason Mr. Carter had, seeing you in the house of his own friends, knowing that you had travelled at the expences of his own friends, to think you that description of person that it was necessary to take you aside in order to be regularly canvassed?

I dont know any reason for it.

That Mr. Carter should separate you from all that came in the chaise?

Yes.

Are you sure you said nothing at supper that you meant to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I cannot recollect that I did.

You was not quite sober?

No.

You said your wife would not have gone to Coventry upon the Tuesday, if it had not been for the election; you now say she went to receive a dividend?

No; my wife went with my mother to Coventry.

You consider that you have no demand upon Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore for the votes you gave either of them, and that you never received more than a guinea and a half, and five shillings to pay your expences back?

No.

How much had you received before you left Leicester?

I had received no money from that party.

What money had you received from any person?

Not any.

What there?

Eating and drinking.

No Bank notes?

No—Mr. Payne offered to lend us a guinea a piece.

Did he lend you any?

No.

Did he lend any body any money for your use?

No, I dont know that he did.

By Thursday do you mean the first day of the poll?

It was on the first Thursday of the poll that I went to Coventry.

Then you polled the second day of the poll?

It was on the Friday morning I don't know whether it was the second day or the third day.

You saw Mr. Jefferys?

I saw Mr. Jefferys when I got out of the chaise.

Was he the first person you saw at Coventry?

No, Mr. Barlow was the first person.—Mr. Jefferys was the first person I knew after I got out of the chaise.

Where was it that you received the five shillings from Mr. Charles Lilly?

He went with me from the booth to Mr. Bird's house, he said there will be a guinea and a half for you, and he said, come to me and I will give you five shillings more, come to me at the Black Horse in the evening.

Who paid you the guinea and a half at Mr. Bird's house in the evening?

After I had come out of the committee I was called for to come up stairs, and there was a man sitting who paid me.

If you had made up your mind before you left Leicester to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and when you arrived at Coventry and saw Mr. Barlow, and Mr. Jefferys, and their friends, why did you not leave that house and go to the house of the friends you came to vote for?

They asked me to go up stairs. I was hungry, and I went up stairs to get something to eat and drink.

Why did your principle permit you to eat and drink at the expence of one candidate, when you intended to vote for another?

I was asked.

You was also asked for your vote?

I told Mr. Carter I would serve them.

What made you tell Mr. Carter you would serve them, when you intended to vote for another party?

I wished to see if I had any friends.

What do you mean by having friends—what is the meaning of having friends?

People that would do me good in case I want it.

You have said you wished to see whether you had any friends. Mr. Carter, by having given you ten guineas, and having promised to lend you 50l. appeared to be what you mean by friend?

Yes.

Did not he?

Yes. And if he had promised me the lease

of the houses I should have thought him my friend.

But did he give you the ten guineas, and promise you the 50l.

Yes.

As far as that he was your friend.

He was my friend so far.

Then what made you leave so good a friend as Mr. Carter, and go and vote for these people who had not appeared to be your friends at all?

I did it to enjoy the principles of my heart.

But you say, if you could have got the lease you would then have obliged Mr. Carter, and voted for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and sacrificed the principles of your own heart.

I believe I should.

Did you know that there was such a thing as an oath of bribery generally administered to voters at elections.

I never polled before that, and I had not a knowledge of it before I went to poll.

You did take the bribery oath, did you not?

Yes. I took the oath at the booth where I went to poll, I believe.

Do you know whether you did or not?

Yes: I did.

Should you have taken that oath if you had accepted Mr. Carter's offer.

No: I could not have voted then, because I should have forsworn myself.

Do you remember the names of the persons that supped with you?

I cannot recollect the names of the others; there was Kean and Palmer, and Richardson and myself, and Watkins.

Were they there when you first went into the room?

I cannot say whether they were or not: I saw them very soon after.

ELIZABETH SWAIN *called in and sworn.*

You are the wife of Joseph Swain?

Yes.

Was you at Coventry at the time of the last election?

I was.

Did you come there with your husband?

No: I came there before him.

How soon did you see him after he got there?

I saw him at the Cross in the chaise, and I followed him as fast as I could to the White Bear.

Did you see him get out?

No: I did not.

How soon did you see him after he got out?

I saw him in the lower room.

At the time you saw him, was he drunk or sober?

He was not drunk; he had had a little liquor, but was not drunk.

State what passed?

When we went up stairs, Mr. Carter called him out of the room, and told him he wanted to speak to him.

Did you stay with him up stairs?

Yes. He went into the room on the right-hand side; Mr. Carter asked him how he did, and asked him how many there were come, and he told him four; he asked how many there were in the whole, and he said thirteen. Mr. Carter then asked him, if he meant to serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; he told

him he meant to serve them, but he could not without he had ten guineas; and Mr. Carter then said, he could not promise him any, and my husband bid him good night; he said, good night for ever. Mr. Carter then caught him by his arm, and told him that would not do; then he took him into a room away from me, and what passed there I cannot tell: but when Mr. Carter came out of this room again, when I went into the room there was a young woman outside the door said I must not go in, and I insisted upon going in. I said I would. I told her, if she did not let me in I would break the door open. Then she said, is that your husband, and I said yes; and then she let me in. When I went in, my husband said he had something more to say to Mr. Carter that he did not wish me to hear. Mr. Carter took him into another room; and when I came out again my husband said Mr. Carter has given me the money, the ten guineas, and said you shall not have it; then he returned it to Mr. Carter again, and he said he would see him in the morning. Mr. Carter said, don't you mean to stop and sleep here; I said no, his mother had provided a bed, and would be very much offended if he did not sleep there. He prevailed upon us very hard to stop and sleep there; he said we should be very comfortable if he would. I said he should not stop to sleep there, his mother would be very much offended if he did; and that was all that passed that I recollect.

What happened afterwards?

I do not recollect any thing more. Mr. Carter offered the money again in that room, and said—Swain, take the money, and you shall want for nothing.

Did any thing more pass?

He said, he would not take the money then, he would see him in the morning; and Mr. Carter promised to see him at eight o'clock the next morning.

Any thing else?

Nothing further that I know of.

Mr. Carter was extremely pressing with him to take the money after he had returned it?

Yes: he pressed upon him very hard to take it again.

Put it into his hand several times, did not he?

He held it to him two or three times.

And your husband was obstinate and would not take it again?

Yes.

Did you see your husband take it the first time?

No.

How long do you think it was he was pressing your husband so violently, and putting the money to him?

I cannot say.

Was it ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour?

They were longer than that together a good while.

And Mr. Carter continually put the money to him, and he refusing it?

He several times put the money to him, saying—take it Swain, and you shall want for nothing: he said that twice.

You did not see him give your husband the money?

No.

Did you see it in his hands?

Yes.

Did you see him count it?

No: he held it in his fingers.

Tell us how he held it in his fingers?

He had it in his fingers like counting it backwards and forwards.

How?

Like as if you was counting halfpence.

Passing from one hand to the other?

Yes.

How much bank notes, and how much cash?

I saw no bank notes at all.

Could you tell how much there was?

No further than what he told me.

How long was he pressing your husband to take it?

I don't know: there was more passed besides his asking him to take the money.

But how long was he pressing your husband to take the money?

I cannot recollect how long it was.

Was the young woman in the room at this time?

No.

Who was in the room?

Only Mr. Carter, my husband, and me.

Where did he put the money?

He put it into his waistcoat pocket—he held it in his hand, after that he had offered it to my husband—he had not put it in his pocket till after he had offered it my husband again, and we were coming away, and then he put it into his waistcoat pocket.

Your husband first of all asked for ten guineas?

Yes.

Before Mr. Carter said a word to him, except his asking him if he meant to vote for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow?

Yes. He said, yes; but he would not without he had ten guineas.

Then the offer came first from him?

Yes.

Where was it that he said this?

Upon the landing place up stairs.

What did you say to that?

I did not make any answer to that at all.

So your husband returned Mr. Carter the ten guineas?

I was in the next room. Mr. Carter did not give it to my husband in my presence. I saw my husband give it him back again.

Did you go with your husband down stairs after that?

Yes.

Who went?

Only me and my husband. We went straight down stairs, and went home.

I want to know whether you and your husband went alone down stairs?

Yes: we went by ourselves down stairs.

Do you know a man of the name of Pickard?

No: I do not.

Do you know a man of the name of Marson?

Not that I recollect.

Did not two or three people help your husband down stairs?

No: they did not.

Was not your husband drunk?

No: they wanted to make him drunk. They brought him several sorts of liquor, and gave it him; and I took it out of his hand and said—do not think you are going to make my husband a beast his way, for he shall not drink it—I will throw it upon the floor;—and I would not let him have it.

He had not drank any thing while he was there?

Yes, but he did not drink above once or so.

Nor eat any thing?

Yes, he did.

What meat?

I think it was veal:—there was some meat upon the table I know.

In what room?

In a room on the right hand side up stairs.

Did you find him up stairs when you first came into the inn?

No; I found him in the room down stairs.

He was sitting there was he?

No, he stood up.

You had a great objection to your husband receiving any money at all?

I had indeed.

Then he did not receive any money at all at Coventry?

Only that ten guineas.

That you are sure of?

Yes.

You have asked him often whether he received any more money?

No.

If any body should say he has received any money from Mr. Lilly, that is not true?

I don't know that he ever did, if he did it is unknown to me.

He was pretty flush of money when he came to London, was not he?

No; he borrowed some money of his master to come with.

When he borrowed from his master to come with, I take it he borrowed enough to go away with?

I don't know that he did.

Did you go back with him?

Yes.

Who did he borrow the money of to go away with?

I don't know.

He did not tell you?

No.

He did not tell you he had any money from Mr. Bird's house?

No.

Did you go with him to the poll booth?

Yes.

Who went with him to the poll booth besides?

My brother.

Did Mr. Charles Lilly go with him to the poll.

Not that I recollect.

Did he come back with him from the poll booth?

I do not recollect that he did.

You went back with him from the poll booth?

I am not sure whether I did or not.

What became of you then if you did not?

I cannot recollect whether I did or not.

Perhaps you can recollect going to Mr. Bird's house with him?

No, I am sure I cannot.

Then perhaps he did not go from Mr. Bird's house to the poll booth?

I cannot tell whether he did or not.

Where did he get any money from at Coventry?

I don't know of any but that he received from Mr. Carter, and that he returned.

You never had any conversation with him where he got any money to take him back?

No: I never asked him.

How did you go back?

We went back by the coach.

And you never learnt from him where he got his money to go back with?

No.

You cannot recollect who went back with him from the poll-booth?

No: I cannot.

You recollect who went with him?

Yes: my brother went with him.

Where did he go from when he went to the poll-booth?

From a public-house, I don't know it, in Broadgate.

Kept by a man of the name of Twiss, is it not?

I do not know.

Did not Mr. Lilly go with him from there?

No: I do not think he did. To the best of my knowledge he did not. I do not recollect seeing Mr. Lilly, I am sure.

How long did you stay at the White Bear?

I suppose we might stay there nearly two hours.

What time did your husband come in?

About seven o'clock.

And you found him there?

Yes.

Did you see who came with him from Leicester?

There was Mr. Palmer came with him from Leicester, one Robert Palmer——

Do you know a man of the name of Watkins of Coventry?

No: I cannot say that I do.

He is a horse dealer?

I cannot say that I know him.

How long did Mr. Carter stay with your husband in all?

He was with him almost all the time that we were there.

Do you mean to say your husband has never told you whether he got any money at Coventry or not?

No: he did not.

Has he never told you from that day to this?

No.

Do you mean to swear that positively?

He never has told me that he has received any money.

Has he told you that he was promised any?

No further than what Mr. Carter promised him: he told me nothing further than that.

What became of your husband after he had given his vote?

He went into Gosford Street to my brother's; I can't say whether it was immediately after he had polled; but I know it was the same day.

Where did he go immediately after he had given his vote?

I cannot tell where he went to.

Did not you go with him to Mr. Bird's house?

I went up to the door.

How soon after he had given his vote did you go up to Mr. Bird's door?

It was before he gave his vote—the blue mob was all there.

What do you mean by the blue mob?

The people that was of the high party.

What colours were they?

I don't recollect that I saw any colours.

I mean flags?

No; no flags at all.

How long were you at Coventry during the election?

I went on the Tuesday, and was there till the Tuesday following.

That you are sure of?

No; I am not positively sure—I think it was that time.

And you went away from Coventry with your husband?

Yes; I did.

You went to Mr. Bird's door; who went in?

I don't know who went in—I did not see any body go in.

Upon your oath, did not your husband go in?

No; he did not go in.

Then he never was in Mr. Bird's house that you know of?

No; I don't know. I cannot recollect whether he did or not.

Did you not go with him when he went in?

He never did go in that I recollect.

What did you go up to the door for?

He was waiting for Mr. Bird to go out, to follow him up to the booth to vote.

Did you hear Mr. Bird and your husband talk together in going to the booth?

No; I did not.

Did he not talk with him going to the booth?

Not that I recollect.

If I tell you part of the conversation, you will recollect it, perhaps—did you and your husband go arm in arm together?

I don't know. I know we went together from Mr. Bird's door.

Did you go close to him or not?

No; I don't think I did.

What separated you—did you go with any body else?

I think I went away from Mr. Bird's door with Mr. Jones.

You left your husband?

He went away first.

Then he has never told you any thing that passed at Coventry between him and Mr. Bird?

No.

I thought I understood you went with your husband to the poll-booth?

I did from this public-house in Broadgate.

Is Mr. Bird's house in your way from Broadgate to the poll-booth?

No; they went to Mr. Bird's house first, and then they went into this public-house to get something to drink.

Who went with you, then, to the poll-booth?

Only my brother and me.

In your way, what conversation had your husband with Mr. Bird as you went away.

I don't recollect any.

How near was you to your husband?

I don't know justly—he might be about three yards from me.

Did not your husband, as he was going to the poll-booth, or at the poll-booth, ask Mr. Bird what he would give him?

He did not in my hearing.

If he had asked him while he was with you, you must have heard him?

I did not hear any thing of that pass.

Might he have said that to Mr. Bird without your hearing?

He might; but not in my hearing.

You are sure nobody went down with him, or assisted your husband at all?

No.

Now, I ask you this, because I tell you there will be some people examined to it besides yourself.—Was not your husband removed out of the room for being very drunk and very noisy?

He was not, indeed.

That you swear positively?

I will swear it.

You say some persons offered him liquor while he was at the White Bear?

Yes.

Do you know who those persons were?

No; I do not, indeed. I took it out of his hand, and would not let him drink it.

You say, when you got up stairs into the room, Mr. Carter called your husband out of the room to the landing place?

Yes.

You was present with him there?

Yes.

Then they went into the room together away from you?

Yes.

Then did you get into that room, or did they come back to you?

I got into the room.

And, then, when you got into that room, the conversation passed that you have told us, and he gave the money back—from that time, till he left the White Bear that evening, was you with him?

I never left him.

You are sure of that?

Yes.

Then, after your husband told you he had received ten guineas from Mr. Carter, he and your husband were together in private?

Mr. Carter took him away from me to give him the money.

And after that time they were never together in private?

Yes. He said there is something else I wish to ask you that I don't wish my wife to hear.

When your husband told you he had got ten guineas you made him give them back?

Yes.

Was it after you had made him give them back, that he said he had something more to say in private.

It was before; he said I have another favor to ask that I don't wish my wife to hear.

That was before you knew he had got the ten guineas?

Yes.

Then they went into another room?

Yes; and then when they came into this room again my husband told me Mr. Carter had given him ten guineas, and I told him he should not have it.

You have said your husband borrowed of his master a sum of money to bring him from Leicester to Coventry?

I don't know, for I was not there, I came away the Tuesday, and he came the Thursday following.

Your husband came into Coventry on the Thursday?

Yes.

Did he vote the next morning.

Yes; Friday.

What day did he leave Coventry to go back to Leicester?

On the Tuesday following.

You saw him vote.

Yes.

Did you go away from the booth with him?

I cannot recollect.

Mr. Carter took your husband out of the room at the White Bear, on to the landing place?

Yes.

How long might they stop upon the landing place.

About ten minutes.

You were not present?

Yes, I was present upon the landing of the stairs.

Was there any conversation upon the landing of the stairs, between your husband and Mr. Carter respecting the ten guineas.

There was.

Mention what that conversation was?

Mr. Carter called him out of the room, and asked him how many were come, and he said four: he asked him how many there were in the whole, and he said thirteen; he asked him if he thought he could bring any, and he said yes he thought he could bring four: he asked him if he meant to serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, he said yes; but he would not serve them without ten guineas.

When he said he would not serve them without ten guineas, did you make any answer or say your husband should not have ten guineas.

No, I do not know that I said any thing then.

Why did not you object at the time.

I do not know; I did not think Mr. Carter would have given it him, because Mr. Carter said he would not make him any promise at all,

and I did not think he would have given it him.

After this Mr. Carter took him into the landing place, did you and your husband go back to the upper room?

No.

Mr. Carter took your husband into another room?

Yes.

How long did he keep him in that room before you went into the room?

I suppose half an hour.

Where was you, upon the landing place the whole of that half hour?

Yes.

I suppose it was in consequence of your husband's staying so long that you tried to force your way?

Yes; I said I had a right to know the bottom of things as well as him.

If you had been present when Mr. Carter gave the ten guineas you would not have let him take it?

No.

Had you any particular reason for following your husband to the Bear, except a natural desire of seeing your husband?

I wanted to take him to his mother's, for I did not want him to go there.

Was you surprized to see him go to the house of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Yes; I was very much surprised to see him come on that side, I did not know they were going to drive him to the White Bear till I saw the chaise go there.

You was surprised at your husband going to the White Bear?

Yes; I did not expect him to go there.

Why did you not expect him to go there?

Because I did not think he would have come for that party.

What reason had you to think your husband would go on the opposite side.

I never had any body belonging to me, or he either, but what had voted for the high party.

Did your husband tell you who he meant to vote for before you left Leicester?

No.

Then how came you to be surprised at his going to vote for either party?

I did not know which side he would vote on, I did not expect he would vote on that side, I must own.

Before you went up to the poll, you went to a public house in Broad-Gate, was that before or after you went to the door of Mr. Bird's house.

It was after.

Did you go from the public-house at Broad-gate immediately to the poll?

Yes.

Then how could you, having gone from the public-house immediately, accompany Mr. Reid?

That was before Mr. Reid came, only as far as that public-house—he went on to the booth, and then they went into the public-house.

ROGER HILL, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

In Palmer Lane, Coventry.

What business are you?

A whitesmith.

Who is the landlord of your house?

I have removed from that house now.

Who was the landlord of the house you lived in, in July last, at the time of the election?

In Palmer Lane.

Have you ever lived in a house of Mr. Carter's?

Yes: it may be four years ago.

Is it four years since you left?

Yes; I think it is.

Had you paid the rent, or was you in debt to your landlord?

I cannot tell justly how much—I should think eight or nine pounds.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Carter about the election of Coventry?

I was sent for to Mr. Carter's brother, who keeps a mill—he is a miller.

Did you see Mr. Carter, the attorney, there?

No: Mr. Carter's brother called me out.

Had you any communication with the other Mr. Carter, the attorney.

Yes.

Tell us what passed between Mr. Carter, the attorney, and you?

I was sent for to the goal, and Mr. Carter came into the kitchen to me.

Was any body else there?

There might be people about, but not with him and me.

When was it?

About the Tuesday that the poll ended on the Saturday.

During the poll?

Yes.

On that Tuesday you went to the gaol?

Yes. I was in the kitchen, and Mr. Carter said some threatening words; what they were, I could not justly tell. I told him I had seen his brother; and he said, why don't you go and poll.—I told him I should, but did not think I should that day.

This was after you had been at the miller's?

Yes: he went away from me, and I never saw him after.

Had you no other conversation with Mr. Carter?

No; I had not.

Did you tell him what had passed between you and his brother?

No.

Were there no other words but those you have stated?

No, no other words.

What do you mean by threatening words?

He came out and seemed to be very angry with me because I was along with the opposite party.

He said nothing to you about it?

No.

What were the threatening words?

He said, "should you wish to be placed here," or something to that purpose.

Placed where?

I was in the gaol at the time.

What do you understand by that?

To be put in gaol for what money I owed him?

What words he used you cannot tell?

No.

When Mr. Carter took you aside, what were the first words he used?

I went into the kitchen, Mr. Carter came to

the kitchen and asked me, what I meant by going on so; and he said, should you wish to be placed there; I told him I had seen his brother; and then he said, why don't you go and poll.

Who did you vote for?

Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

THOMAS MASON, *called in and sworn.*

Do you live at Coventry?

I do.

You was present, I believe, the whole time of the election?

During the whole of the poll; I believe, I was not absent many minutes, any one day.

Did you while you attended the poll so constantly, see Mr. Carter.

I sat on one side of the table at which the votes of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore were taken, and Mr. Carter on the other side, receiving the votes in the same way for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; and that during the whole of the poll except one day that he was absent.

You was the agent for Bird and Moore?

I was.

The same duty that you performed for those gentlemen, Carter appeared to perform for his clients?

Exactly to the best of my knowledge and belief, indeed, in most of the objections that I took to the admissibility of votes, Mr. Carter answered me, or at least in as many instances as any other gentleman: there were two other gentlemen, Mr. Crump and Mr. Twist, but Mr. Carter certainly took as active a part as either of them.

Mr. Carter enjoyed some office previous to the poll?

Mr. Carter held the office of under sheriff for ten or twelve years, ever since I have known Coventry.

How long did he continue to exercise that office?

To my knowledge within a few days of the poll beginning. I challenged him when he came up to poll, and he then said he had resigned the office; he is also now under Sheriff again.

At this time?

At this time he acts as under sheriff, and I believe at this time he has the appointment.

When he was challenged, and said he had resigned that office, did he give any reason for his resignation?

I did hear Mr. Carter say during the election, I have resigned it, and shall now act as the agent for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys. I cannot exactly say when, but I perfectly remember his making that answer to me.

You have no doubt of its happening during the poll?

No.

And you have no doubt he did so act?

I have not the smallest doubt, every person in the city of Coventry could testify that.

Do you remember Mr. Inge?

I know him very well.

Did Mr. Inge take any active part in this election?

I do not take upon me to say that, because Mr. Inge very seldom appeared in the booth, he might pop in once or twice, but I saw very little of him during the election.—Mr. Inge is the town clerk.

Is there any connections between Mr. Inge and Mr. Carter that you know of?

They are in partnership, and have been for several years; at least, so it appears in the profession, they pass as partners.

Do you remember a gentleman of the name of Sinclair appearing there?

I did not know him by the name of Sinclair at that time, I understand him to be captain Barlow's brother.

Do you remember a gentleman whose name you afterwards understood to be Sinclair?

Yes.

Was that gentleman with captain Barlow?

That gentleman was most days, and I believe always attended Captain Barlow in the booth; he was very much there during the whole election.

Did you see any particular exertions on the part of Mr. Sinclair?

The voters came up to poll in a lane, two for Mr. Bird, and two for Mr. Jefferys and Barlow. When Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore were absent, I myself thanked them in their names, and I frequently saw persons come up and poll for Mr. Barlow. Mr. Sinclair thanked them in his name when he was absent, as Mr. Knowly's did those who voted for Mr. Jefferys; I understood that he passed for his brother from a particular circumstance which happened the very first day of the poll, when they were settling how they should poll; the people were calling to me to turn that man out of the booth; Mr. Barlow's brother, and I went to them and quieted them.

Do you remember a person of the name of Crum being there?

Yes.

He was in the same situation as Mr. Carter in the booth, acting exactly in the same way;

Mr. Twist, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Crump, attended from time to time, and the greater part of the time in the booth for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, as I did for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Do you remember Alderman Williamson being there?

Alderman Williamson was at the bottom of the lane in which Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys's votes came up, where they came in. He stood the greater part of the time as a bar to prevent any body else coming up, I think he did during the first three days, and I believe during the greater part of the poll.

That must have been a troublesome task?

A very laborious task, because there was frequently a great pressure; indeed there was an application made to have him removed, because it was conceived to produce an undue influence, and Mr. Burton Morris the assessor said, if Mr. Williamson condescended to take upon himself the office of a blackguard he could not help it.

Besides this particular duty, was Alderman Williamson particularly active?

It is impossible to say how Mr. Williamson was employed afterwards, because we removed from the booth at six o'clock, from whence we went to dinner, and at seven it was dark.

Do you recollect any thing more with respect to Mr. Sinclair?

Nothing more than I have related.

Do you remember any other persons, members of the corporation, who appeared in any active situation during the election?

I cannot take upon myself to particularize acts that they did individually, but every member of the corporation more or less, at

least all the leading men, were doing all they could to promote the election of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; I cannot particularize any acts, because I was in the booth, but there never was an idea to the contrary started in Coventry.

Do you know any thing respecting the regulation of the donations of four pounds.

I cannot take upon myself to say. I have been in Coventry, but ten or a dozen years, and cannot speak to the distribution, but I was once present when it was distributed, and I have searched the books by order of the House of Commons; and I find they have been distributed for three and thirty years in the months of May or June: I understand, but I cannot speak from my own knowledge, it is always in Trinity week.

Do you know from any of those persons who are in the corporation, and who you say were so active, any reason for its being later this year than usual?

Certainly I do not; I believe I am the last person they would have entrusted with the reason.

Mr. Mills. You are the gentleman who swear to your hearing those words used by Mr. Burton Morris?

I swear that was the answer, to the best of my belief, judgment, and recollection; the very words used by Mr. Morris, upon a complaint being made to him of Alderman Williamson, standing at the bar.

The question is, Whether you heard it?

I did.

In the way in which you addressed yourself to me to enable yourself to hear me, my question is, Whether you will venture to swear

you heard Mr. Morris say what is put down upon the minutes?

I swear I heard Mr. Morris say, "if Mr. Williamson would take upon himself the office of a blackguard."—I believe these words: "if he will condescend to take upon himself the office of a blackguard, I cannot prevent him," and in consequence of that he remained there the greater part of the time.

Then you mean to swear to the best of your recollection, these were words used by Mr. Burton Morris?

I do.

Though you have not been long in Coventry, you certainly was a most zealous friend of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Most undoubtedly I did espouse their cause most warmly.

You canvassed with them?

I canvassed with them.

And I believe you talked to several people of the best means of securing their success.?

As it fell in my way: I gave every advice that was asked of me.

Do you know a man of the name of Barton, who keeps the Salutation?

I know him very well.

Do you happen to remember when the mob of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore were pretty active to keep the town to themselves, your saying you would lay Barton a bett, that Mr. Jefferys never came so far into the town as that house, the Salutation?

I have not the smallest recollection of having said it. I may have used words of that sort in a jocose way.

Did you or not offer a bett that Mr. Jefferys would not come so far into the town as the Salutation Tavern?

To the best of my belief I never did.

Then you swear to the best of your belief you never offered that bett?

I do certainly.

You know nothing then of any attempt made by an amazing mob to meet Mr. Jefferys, and to prevent his coming into the town?

I have been told that I headed that mob.

I ask you whether you do not know, having been so active a partisan during the election of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that a large mob assembled and went to the end of the town of Coventry to prevent Mr. Jefferys coming into the town?

I can only answer that by giving the reasons of my knowing it.

Do you know it?

I do not of my own knowledge, I never saw any thing of it, and therefore I cannot know it.

I beg your pardon, you may know it from Mr. Bird.—Did you hear from any of Mr. Moore's party, or Mr. Bird's party, that any such thing took place?

I have heard from friends of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that when Mr. Jefferys came in, he was attended by a body of men; and that a body of our friends went to meet them.

Do you happen to know the fact, that when Mr. Jefferys came in in a chaise, the house to which he went was surrounded immediately by a large mob?

There were a great number of people in the street certainly when he came in, and at the King's Head, but I did not see any mob.

Was there not a large mob surrounding the house of Mr. Jefferys?

There was not a large mob, there were a great number of people.

What is the description of a large mob at Coventry?

Four or five hundred I suppose.

I have heard that two hundred against one is not considered as a mob at Coventry?

That is a matter of speculation.

Do you believe there was a mob resisting, and waiting to resist, the entry of Mr. Jefferys into the town?

I believe not; upon it being reported to the friends of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that Mr. Jefferys was coming with a large mob, there were an equal or larger number of the friends of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore went to meet them, but I did not see them.

Then you are able to compare two quantities, not having seen either, and that was from information?

I was at a house at the extremity of the town, shut up with Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, because we would take no part in it.

You took no part in it because you did not think it right.

I did not think it right certainly, that there should be a riot; we were canvassing upon Grey Friar's Green, another extremity of the town leading to Warwick; the moment we heard the two parties were meeting, and that Mr. Jefferys was coming, Mr. Bird, Mr. Moore, and myself went into the house of Charles Harris, and there remained till we understood every thing of the sort was over, purposely, that they should not lay it to our charge.

Then you only retired from extreme caution?

The mob that you talk of did not go from us, or were at all with us; there was Mr. Bird, my-

self, Mr. Moore, and several other persons canvassing; upon hearing of this we immediately stopped our canvass.

Be that as it may, you thought it right to go away from it?

I certainly thought it right to keep away from any disputes of the sort.

You was not present when the mob broke into the house of Mr. Jefferys, and he escaped with difficulty with his life?

I was not.

Do you know of such a transaction, breaking the windows, doors, and furniture of the man who keeps the White bear?

At what time.

The first day he came in?

No; I do not. I saw a riot another time during the poll, but I cannot particularize the day.

You were very zealous for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Upon honest principles, you approved them as members?

I did; Mr. Bird was a very old and particular friend of mine.

The zeal you shewed was equal to that of Alderman Williamson?

I certainly was very zealous.

Do you not know that there was a determination against Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore being returned by a large and powerful body in the city of Coventry?

I know, at least I have reason to believe, there was a great number of people in Coventry who would do every thing in their power to prevent their being returned.

Were not Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore very unpopular to a great many?

Yes.

Mr. Moore was a complete stranger?

He was a complete stranger till about Easter Monday last.

Then the result of their success would have been, that Mr. Bird would have succeeded in bringing a stranger to the city of Coventry?

Yes.

I ask you if Mr. Bird had succeeded to the utmost of his wishes, whether he was not bringing a stranger into the city of Coventry with him?

He certainly did bring Mr. Moore down, and did every thing in his power to promote his election.

It was Mr. Bird's interest that Mr. Moore stood upon?

It was the interest that supported Mr. Bird that supported Mr. Moore. Mr. Bird was certainly the first person who introduced Mr. Moore to Coventry.

Then in that state of circumstances, Mr. Bird's unpopularity, and Mr. Moore being a stranger, does not appear to you any cause why they should be opposed in your judgment?

I do not admit that he was unpopular. There was as large a party to support Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, as there was against them.

In this the corporation and other principal people, who have been named before, all concurred?

I believe they did.

And persons who had no votes themselves, persons of respectability in Coventry?

Yes.

And many also who had no votes were equally zealous?

I need not ask you, if there is not always at Coventry the utmost zeal displayed on both sides?

I cannot say, I never was there before at a poll.

Do you mean to say, you believe those on your side acted upon honest principles, and that those who acted on the other side, acted upon dishonest principles?

I can only speak for myself; I acted upon honest principles.

Did you ever attend an election where persons were employed to take the poll?

I never attended at the taking of any poll before.

Then you do not know how necessary it is to have persons to attend as agents in a poll booth, who have nothing to do with the election otherwise?

No; I do not.

You were a member of the council last year?

And am still.

Do you belong to any particular Ward?

I live in Bishop Street Ward.

Then you could recommend persons to those donations?

I believe I had no chance upon earth of recommending a single object.

I ask you, whether being a member of the council which distribute the money, you have not the power of recommending objects that are fit ones, to the notice of the council?

I should certainly have had the power, but I am not applied to for it; because I am not in habits of intimacy with the corporation.

Did you exercise that power?

Never in my life.

You know that the money was not distributed in the month of June or July last?

Not that I know of.

Being a member of the counsel and summoned to every house, would you not have known it if you attended your duty, that it was not distributed in Trinity week.—Did you not know in fact, that no four pounds was distributed till October?

It appears so by their books.

Did you know at the time of the election, that that money had not been distributed?

I have not the smallest doubt nothing of that sort had been done.

Did you or not know that the distribution had not been made?

Of my own knowledge I cannot say, because I did not attend any of the houses, but I have no doubt about it.

Did you not know in fact, aye or no, previous to October, in July and August, that the money had not been distributed?

I have no doubt upon earth that in July and August there was no money distributed.

My question is not whether in fact you attended the council, but did you or not know that the money was distributed in July and August, during those months previous to October?

Only from general report.

Did you not believe that general report to be true?

Certainly I did.

Did you in July, or in August, or in September, make any objection to the delay of the distribution?

I neither in August, September or July, I believe, ever attended any of the houses.

If you had thought it a wrong measure, might you not have attended and made your objections?

I might certainly; but I took no part in their transactions.

Do you know of any committee at Bird's at Coventry?

I am not aware of any committee but that which was held at Mr. Bird's house in Park Street.

Do you know of any London Committee?

There were certainly persons in London, but where it was held, to my own knowledge I do not know.—I believe at No. 1, Wood Street, where I believe Mr. Bird lives.

Do you know where Mr. Jones lives?

Yes, that is the house; it is the house of residence of Mr. Jones, but Bird and Jones is the firm.

Do you know of committees sitting there.—You were not in London?

I was not in London.

Then you only knew from correspondence?

No.

Name the committee at Coventry: James Harris, was he one of the committee at Coventry?

He was.

Charles Eyre?

Not that I know of.

William Eyre?

I think he was there.

Was he one of the committee men?

I cannot take upon myself to say whether he was or not.

Charles Adams.

Mr. Adams gave his assistance I believe.

Do you believe William Eyre gave his assistance?

Yes.

Do you believe Charles Eyre did.

I believe he did.

John Davis?

Not that I know of.

Thomas Harris?

Not that I know of.

Did you see them assist at the house of Mr. Bird?

I cannot say.

Was Charles Lilly upon the committe?

He was in the booth the whole time with me.

Did he act as an agent to Mr. Bird.—Did he act as you did?

To the best of my judgment, I believe he did the utmost in his power to promote their success; but I considered myself as professionally engaged.

And Mr. Lilly acting as you did without a professional engagement?

Yes.

What other committee-men were there at Mr. Bird's house?

I cannot tell.

Do you believe those were all the persons who were committee-men at Mr. Bird's house?

I don't recollect —There was James Soden.

Do you recollect any body else?

I really cannot.

Was Tipson employed to bring you out-voters?

Not to my knowledge; I was the whole of the time without exception in the booth.—I did not see him bring any in.

About this mob:—On the day you describe you heard there was a mob gone out, you was with Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and some other gentlemen at a different part of the town?

Yes.

Then do you mean that all that you told my learned friend in answer to his questions, was what you heard?

I knew and saw nothing myself.

Who was the Under-Sheriff during the election?

A person of the name of John Laing executed the office.

How soon after the election did Mr. Carter resume the office of Under-Sheriff?

The new Sheriffs came into office on the 1st of November.

When did Mr. Carter resume the office of Under-Sheriff?

I cannot take upon myself to say.

How is the Under-Sheriff appointed?

By the Sheriffs.

Then Mr. Laing after the election was well disposed of, might have resigned?

He might have resigned, I cannot say.

WILLIAM HARRIS, *called in and sworn.*

Are you a freeman of Coventry;

Yes.

Who did you vote for the last election?

Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Do you know Mr. Carter the attorney?

Yes.

Do you know Mr. Ewbank?

Yes.

Did you see either of them during the election?

Yes; they came to my house on the 2d day of the poll, and Mr. Watts who keeps the Red Lion Inn.

What passed?

Mr. Ewbank sat down, and I said it is no

use for you to come here, you have come here for us to serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, but it is of no use.—Mr. Ewbank then said I was getting in years, and I might have Bablake, that the corporation gave.

What is Bablake?

It is an hospital for old men; he said it would be a pretty thing; they have four shillings a week for their lives.

What else passed?

Mr. Watts and Mr. Carter talked a great deal against Mr. Bird.

What did Mr. Carter say?

He said Mr. Bird was this and that, and the other, very disrespectful words.

Did he say any thing else?

I cannot recollect; they said so much they were near an hour at my house talking against Mr. Moore, and Mr. Bird, and I cannot tell the tenth part of what passed.

But you are sure Mr. Ewbank said you might have Bablake?

Yes; and Mr. Carter said my son might have the four pounds.

If what?

If he woul serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Was your son resent?

Yes; it was in my own house, there was no body but my wife and I and my son in the house.

You are grown rather old, are you not?

Yes.

Your memory is rather short, is it not.?

It is not so good as it has been.

You first told us Mr. Ewbank spoke about the four pounds?

They all spoke about it; they said I might have the four pounds.

How came you to say Mr. Ewbank said it first of all?

He might be the first that mentioned it, but they all said it.

What was become of this lady that you mentioned?

She is dead.

So she came with them?

Yes.

Mr. Ewbank and Mr. Carter were both there?

Yes.

They both came together?

Yes.

And staid there an hour?

I dare say full an hour.

They said so much that you cannot recollect the half of it?

No; there was too much, I cannot recollect half of it.

You have a letter in your possession, have not you?

No.

Are you quite sure of that?

Yes.

Did not you shew a letter to Mr. Ewbank?

It was a letter that came from my daughter in London, to make application to the member to get her husband off from being a soldier.

To what member: to Mr. Moore was not it?

No; it was a letter to me, that the election was coming forward, if I would apply to the member to get my son-in-law off.

Were you not to apply to Mr. Moore for that?

No.

Have you not applied to Mr. Moore for that?

No.

Did you not tell Mr. Ewbank you had applied to Mr. Moore to get your son out of the militia?

No.

Nor out of the regiment?

No.

Then you told Mr. Ewbank you was to apply to Mr. Moore?

No; I did not, I said to the members.

Did you not mention Mr. Moore's name?

I did not; the letter was written before we knew Mr. Moore would come down.

Have you got the letter?

No.

JOSEPH KIRKLAND *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

In Coventry.

What are you?

A poulterer and fishmonger.

Do you remember the election at Coventry?

I do.

Do you remember a gentleman of the name of Sinclair there?

No; I do not.

Do you recollect being with a man of the name of Francis Oughton there?

Yes.

What is he?

A shoemaker.

Is he an elder?

Yes.

Do you know on which side he polled?

He polled for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Did you see him at any time before he polled?

Yes; I saw him on the Wednesday before, the poll closed on the Saturday.

Do you know on which day he actually voted.

He voted on the Friday morning.

You saw him vote?

I saw him vote.

Before he voted was you present at any conversation between him and any body else about his voting?

Yes.

Who were the persons you allude to?

A gentleman that went by the name of Mr. Barlow's brother.

Do you know enough of that gentleman to know him again?

Yes.

Did any thing pass between him and Oughton—Did you see any act done?

I was standing in conversation with Oughton on the Wednesday. I think about eleven o'clock.

Tell us what you saw done to Oughton, or what you saw Oughton do relative to his polling?

This gentleman who was called Mr. Barlow's brother came up, and asked Oughton if he had polled, he then called him aside.

Was you within sight?

I was not further off than the other side of the court; I saw what passed, but did not hear, he called him aside, and he turned round and said, who is that; Oughton said, it is a friend of mine; I then saw him take some money from his waistcoat pocket, and it appeared to me that he was counting it.

Who was it that took money from his waistcoat pocket?

Mr. Barlow's brother; they then went from the place where they were in conversation, they went to the booth, and I saw him put into the pen of Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

By the pen you mean the lane where they were put to poll?

Yes, I was poorly and went home—I had not been there long before Oughton came in, he is a man that I send of errands, I employ him any way I can, he is a man I respect.

What did he do when he came into your house?

When he came into my house, he put ten guineas into my hand, and I counted it; this was on the Wednesday.

Did he actually poll after this?

He polled on the Friday morning with John Bateman, a butcher.

Was this before he polled?

Yes.

What situation of life was he in with respect to circumstances?

I should think he is as low a man as can be in circumstances, no doubt of it he is a poor man, he has a wife and five small children, he is a shoe maker; he mends shoes, and I employ him to run of errands or do any thing for me.

Do you happen to know what become of that ten guineas afterwards?

Not exactly; I cannot.

What time did he come into your house?

About half an hour after I came home.

That was on the Wednesday?

Yes.

So that both times was on the Wednesday?

Yes.

Where do you live?

In the High Street, opposite the King's Head.

Was you the person who inhabited a place very near the Old Bailey some years ago?

No; I cannot recollect. It was a person of the same name.

Joseph Kirkland, are you the same Joseph Kirkland who did happen to inhabit Newgate?

I have been in Newgate, but I do not know what you mean from it.

How long ago?

I have lived sixteen years in Coventry—let any man impeach my character.

How long ago is it?

I should think I have not been in Newgate sixteeen or seventeen years; and if I went there it was for my own pleasure.

Do you mean that you was a prisoner in Newgate?

I never was a prisoner in my life.

Then you are not the same person. How long have you lived in Coventry?

Sixteen years next Lammas.

Have you been a housekeeper?

Yes, all that time.

Is there any other Joseph Kirkland in Coventry?

There was Hugh Kirkland, he has been dead about three weeks.

You stated, that after this transaction, which you were a witness to between the person you suppose to be Mr. Barlow's brother and Oughton; you saw Mr. Barlow's brother put him into the pen?

Yes.

Do you know the reason at all why he did not vote at that time?

I do not know.

You have said you saw Mr. Barlow's brother take money out of his pocket?

It appeared to me so.

You are sure of that?

I am certain of it.

How near was you to Oughton at that time?

I suppose as near to him as I am to the other side of the Court.

What became of that which you supposed was money?

I saw him give it to Oughton.

What did Oughton do with it?

He put it into his pocket.

You saw that?

Yes.

What it was you could not see?

I could see it was gold—it was guineas.

Who did you vote for?

I am not a freeman, I am not in any way interested whatever.

Was it in your house this transaction took place?

No; in the new road in the street, it leads down to the women's market.

Was it the same day that Oughton shewed you the ten guineas?

Yes; the very same day, half an hour after that.

Was this late in the evening?

No; about eleven o'clock in the forepart of the day.

Do you know why Oughton did not poll after he was put in the pen?

I do not know.

Do you know whether the poll closed that day earlier than usual?

I do not think it did; it was admitted that Mr. Carter and Mr. Ewbank polled for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and it appeared by a reference to the poll book, that Francis Oughton, No. 1764, voted for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow on the Thursday.

ADJOURNED.

Tuesday, March 1, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

RESOLVED,

That Alderman Howlett, not having been proved to be the agent of the sitting members, his declarations ought not to have been received in evidence.

Mr. *Pigot* proposed calling a witness to prove that Alderman Williamson had offered a bribe to a voter, and contended that that was a disqualification of Alderman Williamson's vote; but the committee were of opinion in the negative, without hearing counsel on the other side.

EDWARD ARNOLD, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Coventry.

What are you?

A plumber and glazier.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

I am.

Do you know Alderman Williamson?

I live within four doors of him.

Do you remember the time of the election, last July.

Yes.

Did Alderman Williamson apply to you upon the subject of your vote?

Several times.

When?

The last time he applied to me was on the Friday that the poll closed on the Saturday, about eight o'clock in the morning. He said, he was come to know whether I had made up my mind who to serve.—I told him I did not mean to poll unless I was wanted.—He asked

me, after that, whether I had ever had the corporation fifty pounds. I told him, I had not; I had one granted me about nine years back, but never had it.—He said, if I wanted one, I should have it.—I told him, I had not security for it.—He said, I should have one on my own note.—I told him I should not serve him at all.

What did you mean by serving?

Not serve the party.

Who were the party?

I said, I should not serve Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.—He said, I had better consider of it; for Jonathan Taylor was dead, the glazier. And he said, if I would serve their party, I should do the whole of the corporation work. —I told him, there was Mr. Newcomb, and he did the work, and I should stand no chance of doing it at all.—And he said, no; they did not mind Mr. Newcomb at all. I should do the business, if I would serve the party.

On what conditions was you to have this business—was you to do any thing for it?

No further than to poll for the corporation; I expected that, and nothing else. I had made application nine years before, and then I had good security.

You were a neighbour of Mr. Williamson?

Yes; when I am at home. I have lived near him since Lady-day.

I take it, living near him, you were not upon bad terms with him?

No.

I suppose it is not unusual for a man to ask his neighbour to assist him; or has the doctrine of gratitude, being an evil, got to Coventry?

He never used to speak to me before.

You were not upon good terms, perhaps, then—I understood you to say he came to you several times?

He did.

Before that you was upon no terms with him?

No.

You never asked him for a favour before then?

I do not know whether I did not ask him before. It is a rule to go to all the justices to apply for the 50 l.

Your first answer was, that you had not made up your mind unless what?

I had been applied to on both sides, and I did not wish to poll at all.

When he asked you to serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, what was your first answer?

I told him I did not mean to poll at all unless I was wanted.

Upon your oath, did Alderman Williamson mention the word polling for the corporation at all?

He said, serve us.

Had he not before mentioned Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

He had before that sent to me to come to supper.

I am speaking of that very day: Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, were their names mentioned—did he mention them?

He mentioned Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; but he mentioned, serve us as well.

Had he mentioned Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, before he mentioned—serve us.

Yes; and he told me I should have the corporation business.

Was you in bad circumstances?

I had been; but I had been better since—I have had misfortunes in the world.

Should you have thought it an ill-natured thing of a neighbour to put you into work?

I was certain he would not do it.

Then you are sure that what this gentleman said could have no influence upon your mind at all?

I was sure I should not do the work.

You was sure the thing they offered you, you could not obtain?

Yes.

You told him so?

Yes.

Upon your oath, did he ask you to poll at all?

Yes; he did.

That day?

Yes.

For the corporation.

Yes; three, four, five, or six times.

Had you refused him, or did you say you would think of it?

I refused him.

How did you poll?

I polled for Bird and Moore.

He said you should have the 50l. upon your own note?

Yes.

Do you happen to know whether that could be done or not?

It has been done before.

Is it not a rule of the charity, that no man can have it upon his note without security?

There is a man that has had it belonging to my family.

Your brother?

Yes; I dare say he has had it.

Who has had it in your family?
My brother has had it.
What is his name?
Thomas Arnold.
What security did he give?
I do not know; I know he had no security from his mother.
How many years ago is it since he had it?
I cannot tell.
Nine or ten years ago?
I think it is more than that.
Did he have it upon his own note?
I do not know.
Did you not know at that time that no person could give his own note for the fifty pounds?
I do not know any thing about that.
When Alderman Williamson applied to you for your vote, did he say you should have the loan of fifty pounds if you would serve him?
He asked me if I never had the corporation fifty pounds.
Did he say to you, if you will serve us you shall have the loan of fifty pounds?
He said if you will serve us you shall have the corporation fifty pounds.
Was any body else there?
Nobody but my wife.
When he said serve us, or serve the corporation, did you ask him what he meant?
No.
What did you understand by serving the corporation?
Because he had asked me for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys before that time.

THOMAS DODD; *called in and Sworn.*

What are you?

A baker.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Did you vote at the last election?

Yes; I voted for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Did you remember seeing Alderman Williamson upon the subject of the election?

Yes.

When?

I saw him sometime before the election came on, and after the poll began.

What passed the last time you saw him?

He called upon me and asked me to serve their party.

What words did he use?

He said he would be a friend to me.

Did he explain to you what he meant by serving their party?

No.

He did not tell you what he meant by it?

No.

How was you to serve their party, do you know?

To serve Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

Had you any conversation upon that subject before?

At first it was before they knew who would come.—Sir Robert Peele I think he mentioned first to me; they expected Sir Robert Peele, but he did not come, he said I might have the fifty pounds with security, if it was of any service to me at the time they granted it.

Was any condition annexed to it; was you to do any thing for it?

I was to give him a note for the money, with my brother to join me; he said if I wanted the money then he would lend it me out of his own pocket before I polled.

What had that to do with your polling?

I do not know what it had to do with that, it was after the poll began.

What was you to do?

I was to serve Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

Tell us what he said?

He did not say any thing further than that I should have the corporation fifty pounds, with security; and that he would lend me the fifty pounds out of his own pocket if I wanted it then.

Who was by at this house?

There was nobody by, except my wife, and I don't know whether she was by.

Is your wife here?

No; he called me on one side, he wished to speak to me.

Be so good as to tell us if you do not know whether there was any body in the room, why he should call you on one side?

He came through my kitchen.

Was your wife by?

No; she was not.

You are sure she was not by?

Yes; I am.

And yet he took you aside?

Yes.

Was your wife in the room at all?

Not in the room where we had the discourse.

Where was she?

In the kitchen.

Was she in the kitchen when he called you aside?

Yes.

You voted for Mr. Bird and Mr Moore, I suppose?

Yes.

What day did this conversation pass?

I cannot say, it was after the poll began.

Was it the first, second, or third day of the poll that he said he would advance the money out of his own pocket if you would vote for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow?

It was the beginning of the week, I think after the poll had begun three or four days. I did not poll till the Friday that the poll closed on the Saturday.

SIMON STRINGER, *called in and Sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Coventry.

Are you a voter?

Yes.

Did you vote at the last election?

Yes.

On which side?

For Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Do you remember seeing Aldermaan Perkins upon the subject of the election?

Yes.

What passed between you, and what was it?

I cannot recollect the day.

Was it during the poll?

No, it was before the poll; he came into my house, and sat himself down in a chair, and said "Stringer, I understand you was ill-used at the last election, in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Jefferys; and they owed me some money which never was paid. If you have a mind to seek your redress, now is your only time." I said, I can say nothing at all to it.—What interest did you come upon, and he said Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; I said how can you ask me for my vote, I have put up three times for the four pounds, three year's

running, and you never served me; he said "the gentlemen had made a resolution among themselves, that I never should have it till I had served them." I was in the kitchen, and I then went up into my shop, he followed me into the shop, a place that I work in, and said "it lay in his power to do a great deal of good for me," and then he said "I had got a small family, and that he could put my boy in the Bablake;" then he said "when he came, every thing should be right and straight, and when he came with the smack of the whip, I was to go." His whip was under his left arm.

What was you to go for?

To poll for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Did he say that?

Yes; he came in the interest of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and I told him I should not give him my vote till I had seen Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and he wished me not to speak to them. I told him I should.

Did he say any thing else to you?

Nothing more.

Did you get any other promise from him?

No.

What was it he promised?

He told me he would give me the four pounds if I would serve him, I asked him for it three times; he had given it away for Broad Gate Ward; that was a year before.

When you asked him did he promise to give it you?

No.

When was it he promised to give it you?

About two days I think before they canvassed in the street, it might be one day, I cannot say.

Did it all pass on the day you have been stating?

Yes.

Did you then ask him for it?

No.

Was any body else by?

My wife was by, and one Davis a whitesmith; he polled for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, he was in the house.

So Davis the whitesmith is dead?

No, he is not.

Perhaps Davis was there when this conversation passed?

No; he was in the kitchen, and this was in the shop.

You had no conversation in the presence of Davis?

Yes; Davis was by when he said he would put my boy in the Bablake; I am not confident sure whether he was by at the time.

Was any thing said in the presence of Davis about the four pounds?

I cannot tell; he was not there all the time.

While Davis was there, did any thing pass between you and Mr. Perkins, about the four pounds?

Davis followed Mr. Perkins into my house, and Mr. Perkins said he found I was ill used at the last election.

I ask, whether what passed about the four pounds, passed in Mr. Davis's presence?

No; I am sure it was not.

Will you swear that nothing passed about four pound in Davis's presence?

I am sure he was not.

You are sure nothing passed about the four pound between Mr. Perkins and you, in Davis's presence?

No; because I was in the shop.

You did not ask him to give you the four pound in Davis's presence?

No, I never did.

Then he did not refuse to give you the four pound in Davis's presence?

No; I never did ask him for it then.

Then you swear he did not refuse to let you have the four pounds in Davis's presence.

No, not that I recollect; he said if I had polled he would give it me.

Divis was there some part of the time?

Yes.

Was Davis there any part of the time when he talked about the four pounds?

He was not.

You say this conversation passed with Mr. Perkins before the poll; how many days before the poll?

I think it was two days; I cannot say whether it was one or two days, before the poll: I did not keep it in my head.

You have said that Mr. Perkins came to you, and when you talked to him about the four pounds he said the gentlemen had made a vow among themselves not to let you have it?

That passed in the kitchen; after that I left them and went up into the shop.

Therefore Davis was present when Mr. Perkins said, that gentlemen had made a vow among themselves?

I never asked him for it.

You told us that was said in the kitchen, and that Davis was in the kitchen?

Yes; Davis was there when that passed.

THOMAS PICKARD *called in and sworn.*

What business are you?

A weaver.

Where do you live?

At Coventry.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Do you remember seeing Mr. Alderman Perkins or Alderman Williamson during the election?

Yes; I remember seeing Alderman Williamson on the Friday at the poll, and on the Saturday I met him in Mill Lane; and he called to me, "Tom you have not polled,"—I said, "No Sir, I have not polled," he said, "if you will poll for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, I will give you four pounds," says I, "I have been sworn these three and twenty years; and I have had nothing of the gifts; give me first;" he said, "I will not give it you first," very well says I, I have promised Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and I will serve them independent. When he understood I would not serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, he went away from me.

That was the last day but one of the poll?

Yes.

Do you know how the poll stood that day?

No.

Nothing passed about that?

No.

You are sure about this conversation?

Yes; certainly I am sure. I would not say so if it was not true.

When did you vote?

That very afternoon.

Was this in Mill Lane?

Yes.

He halloo'd out to you?

I was on the one side of the street, and he on the other, and he came over to me.

Was any body by?

Nobody at all, not a soul could hear what passed.

Would you not have voted for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, if he had given you the four pounds?

I dare say I should not.

Then you told him a lie?

I dare say I did.

Did you ask for the four pounds, or did Alderman Williamson offer it to you?

He told me if I would poll for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, he would give me the four pounds; I said give it me first.

THOMAS HERBERT, *called in and sworn.*

What business are you?

A butcher.

Do you live at Coventry?

Yes.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Did you vote at the last election?

Yes.

Who did you vote for?

Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Do you remember seeing the late mayor, Mr. Mullis there during the election?

Yes, on the Thursday. That the poll closed on the Saturday.

Did any thing pass between you and him about voting?

Yes; I was passing by Mr. Mullis's door, and his wife called me in, and I asked where the mayor was; and she said he was up stairs. She went up stairs, and the mayor came out of the room in his shirt sleeves, and his coat across his arm; he said to me, you mean to serve us, dont you, and I said no; he said, why can't you serve us, I gave you once the four pounds, did not I; I said he did; and he said I will give it you again when the time comes, and twenty shillings to make the pot boil at Christmas.—I said it is of no service, for I shall vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and I went away.

Did you go back to him?

Yes; I met a man, and I went back with him; he said, you must serve us.—I said no, I cannot; and he said, you shall have four pounds, and twenty shillings at Christmas.—I said, if you lay me down one hundred pounds I would not touch one of them; I cannot serve you; and then I went about my business. He said I should do no more work for him while he lived.

Did you understand what he meant by serving him; did he talk about any thing or any body?

No; he did not mention Mr. Barlow or Mr. Jefferys, only to serve him; he did not mention either of the gentlemen's names.

When was it you had the four pounds?

Three years back.

You know very well you cannot have it more than once in eight years?

Yes.

WILLIAM JONES, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Leicester.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Was you at Coventry at the time of the last election?

I was.

Do you remember a person of the name of Barton?

Yes.

Do you also know Mr. Goode, the goaler?

Yes.

Did you see them at any time during the election?

Yes, I did.

What day did you meet them?

The day before the polling began.

Were they together?

No, they were not.

Which spoke to you first?

Mr. Barton.

What Mr. Barton is it?

Mr. Barton keeps a public house, the Salutation.

What is his Christian name?

I cannot tell.—Mr. Barton and Mr. Goode jun. were admitted to be members of the council.

Tell us what passed?

I met a person of the name of Ascough who called Mr. Barton to him; Mr. Barton asked me which interest I was a friend to, I said I was perfectly independent, and came at my own expence; then they asked me to go with them to Mr. Goode; I went with them to Mr. Goode's house, he keeps the goal.

Did any conversation pass between you and Barton?

Very little; they would not have me throw myself away.

When you got to Mr. Goode's what passed?

We had a great deal of discourse, Mr. Barton and Mr. Goode said they wished us to poll for them.—Mr. Barton told me he would give me four pounds, and Mr. Goode said so too; they both told me so; and that I should have twenty shillings for the last Christmas. I told them I understood that they could not give it to any person who resided out of the town. Mr. Barton said he believed not; then Mr. Goode said, O yes, we can give it to any body we please; Mr Goode said, don't you be doubtful of my word, Mr. Jones, I never did deceive any body; then they made me promise to poll for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow. I did not give them any positive answer, but they desired me to go up to Mr. Barton's house, and have any thing I chose to eat and drink. I went there, and had three six-pennyworths of brandy and water, and a pint of ale.

Was any body with you?

There was one Taylor with me all the time.

Is he in town?

No.

Do you recollect perfectly which of them said this?

Both of them; and Mr. Goode sent Ascough with me.

You polled for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Was there any body else at the Salutation beside you and Taylor?

There were some persons I did not know; there was a soldier or two.

Nobody else that you know?

No.

Taylor was with you all this time?

Yes.

What Taylor was it?

His name is James.

Where does he live?

In Coventry.

In what place?

In Hill Street.

Where did this conversation pass when Taylor was present, Ascough, Goode, and Barton?

The first part in the street, and the other in Mr. Goode's house.

But where was it that they told you, both Barton and Goode, that you should have the four pounds, and twenty shillings for the last Christmas?

At Mr. Goode's house.

Was there any body present except Taylor, Barton, Goode, Ascough, and yourself?

No.

That you are sure of?

Yes.

What is Ascough's name?

I do not know his Christian name.

Where does he live?

In Park Street.

You told him you did not live in Coventry; and therefore you doubted whether the four pounds could be given to you?

Yes, I did.

Have you seen Taylor since this?

I saw him a few days after.

You have not seen him since the election?

No, I have not.

Now attend to the question I am going to put, and recollect there were three or four persons present according to your own account upon your oath, did you not ask Mr. Barton or Mr. Goode for them to procure you the four pounds?

No; I did not.

Did you never ask Mr. Barton or Ascough as to the time you were togther in Mr. Goode's house, for one of them to procure the four pounds?

I did not.

That you swear positively?

I do.

How came they to give you three six pennyworths of brandy and water without your paying for it?

They ordered me to have any thing I liked to eat and drink.

How came they to let you have it without paying for it?

Ascough went with me.

Did he pay for it?

No; we came out together, and there was no money passed between Mr. Barton and Ascough.

Did not Mrs. Barton or any body else ask you to pay for it?

No.

Where do you live?

I lived at Leicester at that time.

Who did you come with to Coventry?

I came by myself.

How long had you resided at Leicester before the election?

Two years or more.

Was you asked to vote by any person at Leicester?

Yes; a person I think of the name of Smith; he came in the interest of the opposite party.

Before you came to Coventry had you predetermined who you would vote for?

Yes.

For who?

For Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

How came you to go to the friends of the opposite party?

I did not go; I was stopped in the street.

Then how came you to go to the friends of the opposite party?

They asked me to go; I went home with Taylor.

Did you sleep in his house?

No.

Was it the next morning you voted, or that night?

No; the next morning.

Did you return to Leicester after your vote?

Yes.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Barlow or Mr. Jefferys there?

No; no further than when I polled, I told Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore what they had offered me, before Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Before or after you had given your vote?

Before.

You polled the first day of the poll?

Yes.

How long had you been in Coventry before the poll opened?

I had been in Coventry two or three days.

Was you promised any thing more?

They promised to pay all my expences.

Was there any promise made by any other person for your vote?

No.

You had no other reason for serving Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, but your own approbation of them?

No other; If I had taken the money I should have served Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Did you know Mr. Moore before?

No; but I thought Mr. Bird would not bring an improper person to Coventry, or one that was not equal to himself.

When this conversation passed between Mr. Barton and you, were either Mr. Jefferys or Mr. Barlow present?

No.

Who told you to go to the Salutation Inn and get what you wanted; was it Barton himself or Mr. Goode?

It was both.

Was Mr. Goode there?

Yes; in his parlour.

When you got to the Salutation, did Ascough tell Mr. Barton who you came from, or did you?

I did not.

Did Ascough?

I do not know.

Do you know whether he belongs to the house?

No; he did not.

This brandy and water was given you without saying who you came from?

I did not say who I came from.

Did Mr. Barton know who you came from?

No; Ascough called for the brandy and water.

Do you know whether he did or did not pay for it?

I do not know whether he did or did not pay for it.—I do not know, he might pay for it or might not; I did not ask him to pay any thing, I believe he did not, but I don't know.—He went backwards, if he did not pay for it.

You stated before that Ascough came away without paying for it?

He did not pay for it in the kitchen.

Was he in your company all the time?

He went out once or twice.

The court was cleared, but no resolution come to.

ADJOURNED.

Wednesday March 2d, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

The following resolution was read.

Resolved, that no evidence of declaration can be received by the committee, of persons not found to be agents, which is not coupled with some fact or facts.

RICHARD HEWETT, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Coventry.

What are you?

A victualler.

What house do you keep?

The Fleur de lis.

Do you know Alderman Perkins.

Yes.

Was Alderman Perkins frequently at your house during the last election?

He was there every day of his life almost.

Was he there during the last election?

Yes.

How was he employed there; had he any employment?

None at all, that I know of, any more than usual; he makes my house his home when he is at Coventry.

He has no house of his own at Coventry?

No.

Was he employed in any thing respecting the election at that time?

I don't know that he was.

You never saw him employed in any money transactions of any sort?

I don't know that he was.

Question repeated?

Never.

At any time during the whole election?

No.

You never saw him pay or receive money during that time?

No.

Do you understand me; you never saw Alderman Perkins pay or receive money during the election?

No, I did not.

Was he a good deal at home during the election?

He was at home every day.

Do you mean the whole day?

He came about his usual time, perhaps eleven, twelve, one, or two o'clock.

Did any body come to him at those times?

Not that I know of.

Do you mean to swear that?

There were a number of people came to the house, but I don't know that they came to him.

Then those people who used to come to him you did not know?

No, none at all.

They were quite strangers to him?

Many people that I know came to the house, but I don't know that they came to him.

Do you know what those persons whom you did not know came about?

No.

You have no knowledge of it?

No.

You did not expect them before they came?

No.

You did not know what they wanted from any thing that passed?

No.

Nor do you know at this moment what they came about?

No, I do not.

You are sure you understand what I say?

Yes, I do.

Do you recollect the names of any of those who came most frequently.

No; I do not recollect any names in particular, there were a great many of the freemen.

What description of peresons were they generally, were they Coventry men or were they strangers, that used to come so frequently?

Some Coventry and some out-voters.

You mean some Coventry voters and some out-voters?

Yes; all descriptions.

Did they come upon any particular business, or did they come for liquor?

They came for glasses of liquor which they paid for, and some I gave them.

Can you give a guess at all at the number that used to come in a day?

I cannot.

Can you tell me whether there were twenty or thirty in the day?

They were in and out.

Were there fifty?

Perhaps there might be fifty all the time.

Do you mean every day?

Yes, every day; and all the day repeatedly the same people.

Do you mean to say they were the same people?

Most of them; but I cannot say that they were all the same people.

They might change.

Yes.

Perhaps more than fifty?

Moore or less.

Those persons you don't know?

I do not.

Did you not know those you were so kind to give liquor to?

Some of them.

How many might you know?

Perhaps twenty of them.

Did the larger part of them pay for what they had, upon your oath?

Yes; the larger part of them.

Every day?

Every day.

How many might there be that had what they wanted, and did not pay for it?

I cannot tell.

Might there be twenty?

Yes.

Might there be thirty?

There might be more than twenty, or there might be less.

Might there be thirty?

There might be thirty.

Might there be forty?

There might be forty.

Fifty?

No.

Forty-five?

I cannot tell.

Did you keep no account?

No.

Did you keep no account of what you gave away to people?

No.

You have no recollection of what passed?

No.

Though they were there every day of the election?

Yes.

Had you any limit to what they called for?

No; none.

Did you ever refuse them?

To be sure.

Tell us in what instance?

When I did not chuse to give any liquor away, I refused it.—I don't know that I can recollect names, but I can say I did to hundreds.—I don't mean to one hundred different freemen, but I mean one hundred times perhaps; because there may be one that I have refused several times.

You have no way of computing or reckoning what you may have been out of pocket by this generosity?

No.

Have you any claim upon any person to repay you or make you amends?

No.

You never had?

No.

From the moment you admitted these people, and gave away what you have described, you never had any expectation of being repaid?

No; I never had.

Have you ever received any thing on account of what you may so have parted with?

Never.

From any person?

No.

Was Alderman Perkins present while this was going on generally?

Sometimes, and sometimes not.

Tell me what your motive was for giving away this entertainment?

Because I wished that party well. I did not like the other party.

To which party did you wish well?

The corporation interest; I did not like the conduct of the Blues.

That was your only motive, wishing the corporation interest well?

Yes.

Was Mr. Perkins alone at this time, or was any body with him?

He was not by himself; he was in and out, as he is at other times, I did not take particular notice.

Did you ever see Webb come to him, you know Webb don't you?

I know one Webb at Coventry, a dyer.

A whitesmith, I mean?

I do not know him.

You never saw him there that you know of?

Not that I know of

And you never saw any body that you can recollect coming to Mr. Perkins, that you knew?

No; I cannot tell.

Did Mr. Perkins give you any orders, or any instructions respecting giving these things away?

No; never.

Can you tell of yonr own knowledge, whether he knew you was doing so?

I suppose he might think I was giving liquor away, he might or he might not.

Do you think he did know it?

I should think he did.

What reason have you to suppose he knew it?

I do not know any particular reason.

You had no conversation with him about it?

No.

Not a syllable?

No.

Nothing has passed between you, that could inform you how you knew it?

No.

Perhaps he saw it?

He came in and out; I should think he might.

Could any man come into your house at that time without seeing the people that you describe.—At the time there were fifty people there, could a man who made the house his home, come in and out without seeing them?

I should think he might.

Have you any doubt whether he did or not?

I should think he might.

You cannot positively say?

No.

Have you usually at other times as many people backwards and forwards in your house?

No.

Do you recollect any other occasion upon which you have had other people come, and you have treated them so generously?

No.

I understand Mr. Perkins only went in and out, as he did at other times?

I believe so; but I was not all the time in the house.—I have a malt mill to manage as well.

Who has the management of it when you are from home?

Mrs. Hewett.

Did Mr. Perkins sit generally in one room, or in different rooms by turns?

In different rooms.

Do you recollect whether he was in different rooms on the same day?

I believe he sat in all the rooms that were in use, sometimes in one, and sometimes in another.

Then he sat with those people that you have described?

Yes; sometimes.

Was you at home more during the election than at other times?

No.

How did you divide your time from the morning?

Generally in the morning, before I had my breakfast—I have some land, and I generally go to that; then after breakfast, till dinner time, I go to the malthouse; and then, after dinner, I am generally at home.

Then you are generally from home in the morning?

Yes.

Do you know whether those people used to come in a morning as well as afternoon?

I cannot tell.

You do not know it from any expenditure of liquor or any thing else?

I do not know at all, while I was from home.

You had no means of knowing any way?

No; I was not informed.

You let them come and eat and drink as they might, and you not know any thing of it?

No.

That upon your oath, you do not know any thing about?

No.

You told me already you received nothing

from any body, or at least none from Mr. Woodcock?

No.

None from Mr. Perkins?

No.

Nor none from Mr. Sharpe?

None; nor any promised.

Nor any money lent upon note?

No; I have not.

So many customers as you seem to have had, must have exhausted a good deal of your stores I should suppose?

I never kept an account.

Of the stock in the cellar?

No.

Now with respect to victuals, was there a good deal of that expended?

No.

Had you any means of finding out whether there was or not?

Yes.

How do you know that?

Because I provided for the house, and must know what was expended.

You knew what became of it?

I have a large family of my own.

What you provided at that time was chiefly consumed by your own family?

Yes.

During the time of the election?

Yes.

Do you mean victuals and drink?

No; only victuals.—I go to the butcher every morning, I can know when a joint of meat is gone, but I cannot guess how much is gone out of a barrel of ale.

Rum and gin and those things?

I cannot tell, the casks were all in the cellar.

You had no means of knowing whether the casks were changed from full to empty?

No.

Have you had generally very large casks from twenty to forty gallons; you do not at all know at this moment?

No.

Do you happen to know when you laid in a fresh stock afterwards?

I have not bought any since of any signification.

Being a publican, there is a stock taken for the excise, is there not?

It is not made known to me.

Do you mean that the stock taken by the excise officer is not made known to you?

No; they never say any thing to me about it.

Do you ever take stock yourself?

Never.

Have you never done so?

Not of liquors and ale; not of that business.

At no time of your life?

At no time whatever.

Do you know Alderman Williamson?

Yes.

Did he use to come to your house during the election?

No; I do not remember him being there twice all the election.—I do not know that I do once.

You did not see him there?

Not to my knowledge; I do not recollect that I ever saw him there; he might or he might not.

You have not varied your mode as to you

stock, from what you have always done?

No.

You have not altered your course as to taking stock before the election or since?

No.

You are a miller?

Yes.

You have no vote at Coventry?

No.

Your wishes were for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

Yes.

Did you ever receive any direction, or ever see Captain Barlow about any thing during the election?

No.

Was he ever at your house?

He called upon me one morning and said he understood I had no vote, but was a well-wisher.

Did he then say any thing respecting your house, or any thing in your house?

No.

Did you ever receive any direction from any of the persons upon the committee: Mr. Woodcock, Mr. Ewbank, Mr. Inge, Mr. Dickins, Mr. Wilmot, or Mr. Sharpe?

No.

Did you ever refer to Mr. Barlow for any direction?

No.

Did you ever acquaint him with what you had done at your house during the election?

No.

Have you ever made any application to him since, as a person owing you money?

No.

Mr. Mills. With respect to Mr. Perkins, he was a friend of your's?

A very intimate friend.

Your house he was always at when he comes to Coventry?

Yes.

Was any room allotted to Mr. Perkins for that election?

No; he has a room at my house, locked up for his use when he comes to Coventry, not for the election.

Mr. Perkins was, no doubt, a zealous friend to Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

Yes.

The liquor that you gave to any of those, was it under the influence or direction of Mr. Perkins at all?

No.

Did they ever demand the liquor as being sent by any body to you to receive it?

Never.

Do you ever remember giving any liquor to any person there, under the direction or order of any person concerning the election?

Never.

Am I to understand you distinctly, that that which you gave voluntarily was given by yourself at your own charge?

Yes.

I believe you had some reason to dislike the parties; what damage did they do to you during the election?

Broke all my windows.

And what else, when was it?

Previous to the election.

What time of the day?

Eleven or twelve o'clock at night.

Was that when the midnight bell was rung?

Yes.

And the mob collected upon that bell ringing, and came to your house?

Yes.

How many came?

Some thousands.

What did they do?

They broke the window shutters, and broke all the windows, and threw in stones.—I took out the next day, two or three barrels full of stones; they broke the inside windows and the bar windows.

Had you, or any body in your house, done any thing to provoke those persons?

No.

Did any thing pass that you know of to provoke those persons to do this mischief?

I know of none.

I believe in consequence of this you thought it right to keep twenty or thirty people for the protection of your house?

I did; I was not safe, I dare not go out.

What do you mean by "you was not safe in going out?"

After that time I dare not go without a protection.

You engaged several people that you kept at your own charge in your house?

I invited a great many people.

For protection, and nothing else?

For protection.

I suppose you requested these persons to come and protect the house?

Yes I did.

And they did come?

Yes.

And you had different men at different times

during the election, for the purpose of protecting your house?

Yes.

I suppose you gave them meat and drink?

Yes; what I pleased.

Then I ask as to those persons to whom you so gave meat and drink; upon your oath did you give it them with a view to their votes?

No; I had several to sleep in my house.

What is the damage done to your house?

I suppose about twelve pounds.

What did the mob come with, or with what flags?

I cannot exactly say; we durst not go near to hear any thing that passed.

Mr. Const. I understand Mr. Perkins had a private room?

He has a private room, but he did not make use of that at the election.—The room that he had to sleep in was locked up, except when he slept in it.

Your house was attacked by the mob?

Yes.

And you had some persons to defend you?

Yes.

You had none at that time?

No.

No persons rushed out of your house commencing a riot?

Not that I know of.

Had you no other persons in your house before that time?

It was a treat that night, previous to the election, of both parties I believe.—There were several people supped at the house that night.

What time previous to the election was this?

A fortnight or three weeks I should think, I cannot tell exactly.

Do you mean it was a fortnight or three weeks before the election, your house was attacked?

I think it was a fortnight or three weeks.

I am told, on this treat night you happened to have a set of bruisers at your house?

They might be bruisers; I cannot say.

They were there making merry?

Yes.

They were not there at your invitation for any particular purpose?

No.

Was Mr. Perkins there that night?

No.

Tell us who the company consisted of, that you do know?

They were the freemen of the ward; I don't know that I can recollect their names, many of them.

Who treated them?

The Draper's Company I believe.

Was there any bill made out for that entertainment; I ask you upon your oath?

Yes, that was previous to the election; it was only for that night.

Who paid it?

I don't know; I made it out, and it was discharged when I was out.

Upon your oath, you do not know who paid it?

I do not.

You do make bills sometimes then?

Never but that; during the election I never made out any.

What did you mean by both parties?

There was a treat from both parties

Do you mean the two opposite interests?

Yes.

At your house?

No.

Then you are speaking of what happened at some other house?

Yes.

If you don't know who paid it, what right had you to make it out to the Draper's Company?

Mr. Lant ordered it to be made out; he is a mercer in the ward.

Had he nothing to do with the Draper's Company?

Not to my knowledge; I believe he has not.

Do you know whether Mr. Woodcock paid it?

No; he did not.

How do you know?

I should think he did not.

How do you know it upon you oath?

I should think he did not.

I ask you upon your oath, how do you know he did not pay?

I am not certain; but I expect Mr. Lant paid it.

You have told me this was a treat by the Draper's Company?

Yes.

You have told me also, that it was not paid by the Draper's Company?

Mr. Lant came for the bill, and I expect he discharged it.

Did he discharge it when he came for it?

No.

When did he discharge it?

The next day.

Who was it paid to?

Mrs. Hewett.

And did she never tell you who paid it?

No.

Who was it made out to?

Nobody.

You say, during the election you gave away a great deal of liquor?

Yes.

Was it to voters you gave it?

Some voters, and some not voters.

Was any given away in your absence?

I dare say there was.

Who takes care of your house during your absence?

My wife.

What directions did you give your wife respecting giving away liquors while you were out of the house?

I never directed her, but she knew a great many people that I had given it to.

Then you never gave her any directions to give away liquor in your absence?

I never did.

But you swear liquor was given away in your absence?

I cannot swear it? I should think so.

Did you ever ask Mr. Perkins whether any liquor was to be given away to particular people or not?

No.

That you swear?

Yes.

You say you should think liquor was given away in your absence?

Yes.

What reason have you to think so?

Because I think she would give it to persons I had given it to.

That was your only reason for thinking liquors was given away in your absence?

Yes.

You are very intimate with Mr. Perkins?

Yes.

You was at home most afternoons during the election?

Yes.

As you was intimate with him, you was very much in the room with him?

No.

Do you mean to swear you was never in the room with him?

No.

Did you never sup with him?

No; I have dined with him during the election.

More than once perhaps?

Yes.

Did you dine frequently with him?

Yes.

He dined at your table with you and your wife?

Yes; three or four days a week, all the year round.

Did your dinner last long?

No.

What was your dinner hour?

About one or two.

How soon did you usually part afterwards?

An hour, or perhaps an hour and a half.

Did you drink tea together?

I do not recollect.

Did you see one another in the course of the evening, in a general way I mean?

I do not know that I did.

He was part of your family by your account, I suppose you did not part immediately after dinner?

He was in and out sometimes, he would sit in the bar along with Mrs. Hewett.

While he was in the house, were you usually together in the evening?

Generally; he never makes himself strange, but like one of the family.

And that was the case during the election?

Yes; while he was in the house.

And people used perpetually to come in and speak to him during the election?

A great many people came in, and some of them might want him.

And whatever they had to say passed while you was with him?

Sometimes, and sometimes not; I was a good deal away, because we have no waiter when I am at home.

I don't ask if you were always at home; but when you was at home, and he at home, you were always together?

Yes; in the same room.

And together when people came to him upon business?

Yes; a good deal.

Do you mean to swear you have not seen Mr. Perkins give money, I don't ask you for what?

I do.

You have never seen Mr. Perkins give money to any person during the election?

No.

How much did this election cost you?

I cannot tell.

How much are you out of pocket by this election?

I cannot tell whether it was a score pounds or more, I might fifty, sixty or seventy.

How long have you kept that house?

About two years myself; my father-in-law kept it previous to my keeping it.

How much did you ever give away previous to the election?

None at all to signify; I might give a friend a pint of beer.

What rent do you give for your house?

Twenty pounds a year, there is a lease of it and improvements.

What are the average of your profits; how much do you generally make a year?

I cannot tell; it is impossible for me to tell; I have other businesses. I have a mill and a malt-house, and people that work at the farm; they all board at my house, and the profits are not kept separate.

Can you afford to give away sixty or seventy pounds without inconvenience to yourself?

Yes.

Upon your oath, what was your inducement to be so generous at the election?

Because I did not like the party of the Blues, and I wished to be a friend to the corporation interest.

Had you any other motive for wishing to be a friend to the corporation interest, than an attachment to their election principles?

No; I had no other than election principles.

Then you swear that this fifty, sixty, or seventy pounds came out of your own pocket, and is to the best of your belief a loss to your family and fortune?

It is.

You swear that?

Yes.

You stated that you were obliged to have protectors when you went out?

Y e.

Did you always when you went out?

Yes.

Did you always when you went to the mill in the morning take any of those protectors with you, and how many?

Generally; and if I did not, I went through the barracks, and through the park, the back way; my house is near the barracks.

From what description of persons did you select those protectors?

There were a great many people that used to frequent my house; my brother-in-law I asked to sleep in the house, and to stop during the day.

You said that Captain Barlow called one day: at what time of the day did he call?

In the morning, I should think about nine or ten o'clock.

Were there many people in the house when he called?

There were several persons.

Did he speak to any persons in the house?

He shook hands with one or two persons, I was close by him at the time.

What did he say to them?

He said no more than asked them how they did, and went out again; the reason why he spoke to them, was seeing me at the door, he shook hands with me; and while he stood with me, two or three of the freemen came up, and shook hands with him, and he went away.

Mr. Perkins kept a room always in your house?

Yes.

Was that room always kept for him locked up the whole year?

Yes.

It was a room of which he had the key himself at all times?

No; Mrs. Hewett kept the key.

When Mr. Perkins was not there, that room was kept shut up as the private room of Mr. Perkins?

Yes.

It was not a room to admit company. He did not use that room during the election.

No, except to sleep in.

Do you know St. Mary's Hall?

Yes.

Did you hear any persons say they came from St. Mary's Hall to your house?

No; I do not know any body coming and saying that.

Did Mr. Perkins tell you any thing about St. Mary's Hall?

No.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Perkins about election committees?

No.

You swear you do not know of any election business, Mr. Perkins conducted in your house?

I do.

You swear there were no persons came to him having any concern in the election?

Not to my knowledge.

How did Mrs. Hewett know to whom she was to give liquor?

I expected she knew by people that she knew were our friends, that I had given it to before, and if they asked her in my absence I dare say she would give them some more?

Then Mrs. Hewstt understood that to your friends she was generally to give liquor?

I gave no directions.

Did Mrs. Hewett understand that she was to give liquor to your friends?

No, not from me.

Did Mrs. Hewett give liquor to your friends?

Not to my knowledge, but I think she did.

Why do you think she did?

For this reason, that if any friend of mine had come and asked for a pint of beer, she would have given it.

Would she have given it previous to the election?

No.

Why do you think she would have given it at the time of the election?

Because I had given it.

When you came home from your other business, did you ever ask Mrs. Hewett what had passed in your absence?

No.

Will you swear you never asked her what quantity of liquor had been given in your absence, or whether any had?

No.

You state a treat to have been given some time before the election; how long before the election; recollect yourself?

I cannot recollect, if I recollect ever so long; but I should think it must be a fortnight.

In the interest of what candidates was that treat given?

Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

How do you know?

I expect so.

I ask you upon your oath, upon whose interest was that treat given?

Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow;—I think at that time Mr. Barlow had not engaged as a candidate.

In favour of whom was that election treat given?

At that time it was not known who would be the candidates.

Were you at the supper?

Yes.

Were there any toasts given?

Not that I know of; I did not spend five minutes in the room. I did not hear any particular sentiment.

For what purpose was that supper given?

For the corporation interest.

That cannot be; it was given by the drapers company; for what purpose was that supper given?

To the freemen of the ward.

For what purpose?

I cannot tell.

To the best of your knowledge?

For the good and interest of the corporation; it was a very sudden thing about Captain Barlow.

You tell us this supper was a fortnight before the election?

A fortnight or three weeks, I should think, I cannot tell exactly.

Who gave the order for the supper?

It was Mr. Lant.

Who did he give the order to?

To Mrs. Hewett.

What did Mrs. Hewett tell you about it?

She told me a supper was ordered for that night.

For how many?

Twenty or thirty.

How came you to say for the drapers company?

Mr. Lant expressed to Mrs. Hewett that it was for the drapers company.

You say it was for the corporation?

It was for the drapers company in the interest of the corporation.

Were not the drapers company and the corporation generally considered as adverse parties?

I do not know.

You never heard that?

No.

You swear there were no toasts given at that supper?

Not to my knowledge.

Did any body make a speech after supper?

I heard of no speech.

Was the health of any gentleman drank?

Not to my knowledge—I did not hear any.

Was there any thing more than a general conversation after supper?

Not that I know of; I heard of no particular toast, but general conversation.

It was a treat ordered by the drapers company in the interest of the corporation?

Yes.

What is Mr. Perkins?

He is a farmer.

Who is your brewer?

Myself.

Who furnishes you with barley, perhaps yourself to?

Yes, I have a malt mill.

Who furnishes you with barley?

Different farmers.

Did you ever buy any of Mr. Perkins?

No.

Upon your oath was there any general understanding among the innkeepers with respect to the corporation interest?

No.

With respect to licencing public houses?

No.

Who licenced your house?

It was licenced when my father-in-law had it; and I solicited the magistrates, and they renewed it when I came.

Did you see the inside of Mr. Perkins's private room at any time during the election?

Yes.

Did you see any thing in it different from what there used to be at other times?

No.

Did you see any paper, or pen, or ink?

No.

Any extraordinary box?

No.

Did you see Mr. Perkins during the election give pieces of paper to any person?

No.

What is the general number of barrels you have in your cellar at one time of the year and another?

About twenty.

Of what sort?

They are generally wine pipes.

Was there any increase to that general stock previous to theelection?

Not particularly.

Was there any increase to your stock of brandy and rum previous to the election?

No.

You stated that Mr. Perkins kept this room in your house, and considered it as his?

Yes.

What were the general hours, there not being an election, at which he used to come to your house?

Sometimes ten, eleven, twelve, one, two, three, four or five.

Upon your oath was not Mr. Perkins much more in your house during the election, than he was previous to the election?

No, he was not.

That you swear?

Not to my knowledge.

What money did your wife receive from those persons, I dont mean for the bill?

No money any more than what people came in, and drank and paid for.

Did she receive any money from the persons that you yourself treated?

I dare say she did; but I cannot say.

Were the receipts of your house much more during the election than a corresponding number of days at any other time of the year?

Yes.

In what proportion?

I cannot ascertain the proportion, but I am certain it was more than usual.

You say Mr. Lant ordered the bill?

Yes.

What was the amount of the bill?

I think it was between thirteen and fourteen pounds to the best of my belief.

How did he discharge it, in notes, or cash, or how?

I think in one pound notes.

Who is your landlord?

It belongs to a meeting for the benefit of the preacher.

Is your wife here or at Coventry?

She is at Coventry.

I think you said you have a hundred times refused to give any thing?

Yes.

What rule had you to grant to some, and refuse to others?

I only gave to such people I thought proper.

Were any tickets brought to you to give liquor?

No.

Neither from St. Mary's Hall no the Goal Hall?

No.

Did you keep any account of the liquor you gave away?

No.

Do you expect to be paid by any person?

No; I do not.

You did not receive orders from any person to open your house?

No.

Would you have opened your house for whatever candidate the corporation supported?

I do not know.

When did you first come to the resolution of opening your house?

I gave a great deal of beer, several tankards and pints before the polling began.—I gave more away after the polling commenced than before; I gave a great many pints and tankards too.

Did you give nothing but beer away, or any spirits?

No, not previous to the polling; at the time of the polling I gave many glasses of liquor away.

You kept no account of that either?

No.

Did any of the voters come and dine at your house?

Yes, several of the out-voters.

Were you paid for that?

No.

Do you expect to be paid?

No.

And you don't know what the amount of the victuals and liquors came to?

No.

Had you a larger stock before the election than usual?

No; I have my liquors from London in casks.

Having expended so much at the election it was out so much the sooner?

It is not out yet.

Have you bought any liquor since?

I have bought some rum in Coventry, perhaps as much as eight or ten gallons.

No more?

No.

Had you any present made you by any one?

No.

Could you form an idea how much liquor you gave previous to, and during the election at Coventry?

I said before it might amount to sixty or seventy pounds, or it might be something more.

After this petition is decided, do you mean to send a bill to any person?

No.

Do you know Mr. Inge the town clerk?

Yes.

Did you see him during the election?

No; I don't know that I did, I might see him, my mill is near to his house, and I sometimes meet him upon the road; I did not to my knowledge see him.

Mr. Inge the town clerk tells us, that persons were sent to Mr. Perkins at your house to

have accounts settled. I ask you upon your oath, do you or not know of any persons coming there as out voters to have an account settled?

No.

You have mentioned a treat was given, and you say it was ordered by the drapers company?

Yes.

That it was for the freemen of your ward?

Yes.

Do you know that there was formerly a difference as to the support of interests between the drapers company and the corporation?

I have heard say that there was.

Do you suppose that this treat was given for the purpose of keeping together the freemen of that ward in the interest of either or both of these companies?

I believe it was to keep the interest together.

At that time no candidates had declared?

I don't think there was, if Mr. Jefferys had declared no body else had.

Mr. Perkins's son you know?

Yes.

Was he in the house?

Yes, he is in Coventry most days.

During the election was Mr. Perkins's son n the house?

He was in and out.

Did you see him pay any money, and receive any application from any out-voters?

No.

Did you see him give him any papers?

No.

Did you hear of Sir Robert Peele being proposed?

Yes.

If he had proposed himself as a candidate, would you give entertainments to the voters?

Yes.

If Colonel Brooke had proposed himself as a candidate, would you have given entertainments to the voters in his interest?

Yes.

Without being paid for it?

Yes.

How long have you lived in Coventry?

About seven years.

You had no connection with Coventry then before the last seven years?

No.

Did you usually deposit your daily receipts in any particular place, or do you usually keep it in your pocket?

I keep it in my pocket perhaps several days, and perhaps take it to the bank, or put it in a secret place.

Do you ever count it?

Not every day; there are very few days but I have grain coming in, and I pay and receive five or six times in the course of a day.

Being only connected with Coventry for the last seven years, having no vote you felt such an interest in this election, as to give away sixty or seventy pounds?

Yes.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

JOHN SHAW, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Dunchurch.

What are you?

I keep a public house.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

How far is that from Coventry?

About ten miles.

Did you come to Coventry at the time of the election?

I did.

When did you come to Mr. Hewett's Fleur de Lis.—How did you happen to go there?

I was recommended there by one of Mr. Barlow's friends, his name is Eglington.

When you came there, what did you do?

I eat and drank there, and slept there.

Do you know Hewett?

Perfectly well from a child.

Did you pay for what you eat and drank?

I would have paid, but he would not let me he said, I was welcome he should be paid by the gentlemen of the committee.

Who did you see there.—Any body else?

A great number.

Who were they, did you know them?

I knew many of them by their sight.

What were they?

They seemed to be freemen; we supped together.

Do you know if any of them lived in Coventry, or were they strangers?

They appeared to be freemen.

How do you know they were freemen?

They said they were freemen in their discourse.

Was you there more than one night?

Only one night.

Had you any demand on account of the election?

Three of them came from Coventry to ask for my vote, and stopped at my house two or three days.

When was that?

About the 4th or 5th of July; and it was on Saturday the 10th, that I was at Coventry.

Do you know who they were?

No, I do not; I was busy and took very little notice of them.

How long did they stay at your house?

Two of them went away on the Tuesday, and the other went away on the Wednesday.

What day did they come?

It might be on the Monday; or it might be on the Tuesday.

You said the 5th of the month?

It might be on the 4th or 5th.

Did you make any demand of your bill?

Yes.

Of whom?

Of Mr. Williamson.

Did he pay you?

He did not; he asked me if I would poll for them, I said the bill had nothing to do with that; his friends had been at my house, and I wished the bill to be paid, that I should poll in the course of the week following.

What did he do about it?

He asked me if I was doubtful of his paying it?

I said I was not doubtful; I said I supposed I should be paid before I polled, if I was paid at all.

What did he do then?

He asked me then if I would faithfully promise him to poll?

I told him I should not say any thing much about it, if he would pay, I would very likely serve them; he asked me if I was doubtful of the money, he was one of the committee, and I should go up with him, and he would pay me.

Did you go any where with him?

I went up to the committee with him.

Where was the committee?

At St. Mary's Hall.

He accompanied you there?

He accompanied me there—The committee was broke up, I saw one gentleman that I knew who was coming down stairs, that was Mr. Carter.

What Mr. Carter?

The attorney; that gentleman, (pointing to Mr. Carter.)

What passed?

Mr. Carter and Mr. Williamson had some talk, and then Mr. Williamson told me I should be paid in the morning, and I am not positive; but to the best of my recollection, Mr. Carter said come again in the morning Mr. Shaw.

What time was this?

It might be seven o'clock at night, if not a little later.

Did any thing more happen after that?

No.

Where did you go then.

I went back to Mr. Hewett's

What day was this?

Saturday the 10th day of July; next morning Mr. Goode who keeps the goal came to me at Mr. Hewett's in pretty good time in the morning.

Which of the Mr. Goode's?

I don't know them; they told me it was Mr. Goode, he asked if there was one Mr. Shaw there, and the company said yes; I was called into the yard, he asked me if I had a demand upon their folks, I told him yes: he asked me if I meant to serve them, I told him I should; he said you shall soon have your money.

Did he tell you how you should have your money?

No; he said I should soon have my money, and away he went; in about a quarter of an hour, one Walker, as they told me, came, I did not know him, after he was gone, I enquired, and they told me his name was Walker; he was a little man, a sharp shinn'd fellow.

Did you get your money?

Yes; from this Walker.

What was the amount of that?

It might be three pounds, fifteen or eighteen shillings was the outside.

All this was at the Fleur de Lis?

Yes, in the yard.

Was this the sum of money you had talked about to Goode?

Yes.

Was this the sum of money you talked about to Williamson?

It was.

What did you happen to have the night you supped there?

The landlord asked me what I would like for supper. I told him as he was busy, I did not care what it was, I would not wish to put him to trouble; I asked if he could get me some pickled salmon, that would give him the least trouble, it would be ready cooked.

Did you get it?

I did—we had pickled salmon, roast beef, boiled beef, ale, punch and brandy, all upon the table at the same time.

What sort of party was there?

There were four or five sat down with me; the next we had a good breakfast, some freemen came in, and I said we live rarely; "aye," says they, "it is keeping it up."

Do you remember any particular persons who were there?

No; I cannot remember any particular persons. There was a man of the name of Eglington and his wife, who were neighbours to me.

Did you see any chaises come there?

No.

Is Eglington a voter?

Yes.

Does he live at Dunchurch?

He lives in Dunchurch parish, about a mile from me.

How did you come at your own expence?

I came at my own expence.

How did you come up?

In a return post chaise.

Where did you get that?

At the King's Head at Coventry; they called for me.

Did any body go with you?

Yes, one Jones.

Can you give a guess, how many persons you saw there eating and drinking?

I cannot tell, I saw a great many.

A great many at night?

A great many.

And by times in the morning?

And by times in the morning.

When was this?

On the 10th of July, and I left it the 11th.

This bill that you charged was a fair one?

Yes.

It was money employed in that way; and you asked it as money spent in your house, and it was paid?

Yes.

By somebody of the name of Walker?

Yes; a little bow legged fellow.

You polled for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes, the bill was paid me on the Sunday before I went to poll.

You took the bribery oath?

Yes.

I now ask you upon what day of the election you polled?

On the Thursday or Friday, just about the close of the poll.

Who did you come with from Dunchurch to Coventry, when you went to poll?

My daughter and Mr. Clarke

William Bicknell Clarke?

I cannot tell.

Did you know Mr. Tipson?

Very well.

Did Mr. Tipson go with you in the chaise?

He did not.

Who went in the chaise?

Mr. Clarke, my daughter, and myself.

Did Mr. Tipson ride by the chaise?

He rode on horseback, sometimes before, and sometimes behind.

Mr. Clarke lived sometimes at your house at Dunchurch?

Yes, he did.

Mr. Tipson came to you there sometimes?

Yes.

Mr. Tipson canvassed you for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes he did.

Do you remember at that time owing any money to a person of the name of Drayson of the Star Inn?

That is not a fair question.

Did you owe him at any time for a pocket of hops?

I owe him for a pocket of hops now.

Did you at that time?

I did.

Do you remember mentioning any thing about that to Mr. Tipson?

I cannot say I do.

Then you did not tell Mr. Tipson you owed that money to Drayson?

I don't know that I did.

Will you swear that you did not mention to Mr. Tipson, that you was indebted to Drayson?

Yes; I told him in discourse that I was indebted to Mr. Drayson.

Was it in the discourse in which you was requested by Mr. Tipson to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

It was.

What interest could Tipson have any debt you owed to a man of the name of Drayson?

Tipson had nothing to do with Mr. Drayson.

How came you to mention it?

We were talking of the quality of the Hops.

So that the circumstance of your being indebted for Hops, arose from the quality of Hops being the subject of conversation?

Yes.

And you introduced the circumstance, that you were indebted to a neighbouring Innkeeper for a certain sum for a pocket of Hops?

I never told him what the price was.

But you mentioned it as a circumstance that might prevent your going to Coventry to vote?

I am sure I did not; Mr. Tipson had nothing to do with my settling for the pocket of hops.

Was it not mentioned to you as a circumstance that should be settled before you went to Coventry to vote?

No; I don't know any thing of the kind that he should settle it.

My question is, whether it was not mentioned, that it was a circumstance that you wished to be settled before you went to Coventry to vote?

Not to the best of my knowledge, it was never rehearsed.

Then it was never proposed or thought of, that that debt should be settled before you went to Coventry to poll?

It was not to my knowledge.

Then to your knowledge it was not settled before you went to Coventry to poll?

No it was not; I stand indebted to him now.

Then it is not true that Tipson consented that the business should be settled by Mr. Clarke going over to Drayson, and having the account settled.

I never asked Tipson to settle for my Hops during the whole course of the election, nor after; I was to pay for the pocket of hops as they turned out.

Mr. Clarke had nothing to do with your concern?

Nothing.

He had nothing to do with Drayson?

Nothing that I know of.

Did not Mr. Clarke go to Mr. Drayson, and was not the pocket of Hops struck out of Drayson's book?

I never asked him to do any such thing.

Then to your knowledge the pocket of Hops was not struck out of Mr. Drayson's book before you went to vote at Coventry?

It was not.

Mr. Clarke did not tell you he had been over to Mr. Drayson, and it was struck out of your account?

To the best of my knowledge he did not.

Mr. Clarke never told you he had been over to Mr. Drayson, and that that charge was struck out of the book?

No?

You did not know it from Mr. Clarke, or from any body?

No.

You did not know it was struck out from Mr. Drayson's book before you went to Coventry?

I did not.

Do you remember any proposition being made, that any money should be deposited in the hands of Mr. Clarke at all, or a person of the name of Martha Burbridge?

No, I do not; she is my daughter.

Do you know if it was proposed by Mr. Tipson, that the money should be deposited in the hands of your daughter?

No.

Nor any of her children?

No.

Then you never heard of that propesal?

No.

Then no proposal of lodging any money in the hand of your children was mentioned?

Never.

Then Mr. Tipson of course could not object to that being done?

I never asked Mr. Tipson any thing of the kind; we never had any conversation about it.

Then you swear you never asked Mr. Tipson any thing about it before you went to Coventry?

I did not.

Then it can't be true that you asked him for ten guineas?

I never did.

Then it can't be true that Mr. Tipson said he should promise you nothing then?

I never asked him for any thing, nor I never asked him to promise any thing.

How much was the amount of the pocket of Hops, seven pounds, was it not?

I don't know; there was no price put upon them 'till they were used; they were old Hops of an inferior quality.

You, and Mr. Clarke, and Mrs. Burbridge, went together?

Yes.

You went to the Dolphin Inn?

Yes.

Did you stop by the way at the Black Dog?

I don't recollect it.

You polled for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Have you not told Mr. Clarke since the election, that Mr. Drayson has called upon you, notwithstanding what passed to pay for the pocket of Hops?

I had some talk with him one night about Hops.

Have you not told Mr. Clarke since the election, that Mr. Drayson has called upon you for that pocket of Hops?

Yes; I believe he has.—I don't know whether I ever told Mr. Clarke so or not; but to the best of my knowledge I never did; but I might notwithstanding.

Will you swear you did not tell him so?

I believe I told Mr. Clarke that Mr. Drayson asked me how the Hops turned out, and I told him very bad.

Did you not tell Mr. Clarke that Mr. Drayson had called upon you to pay for these Hops?

I cannot charge my memory to say whether I did or not.

How could you have said so, if nothing had passed at Dunchurch about the Hops before?

Mr. Drayson and Mr. Clarke was very intimate.

Did you not tell Mr. Clarke notwithstanding what passed at Dunchurch, this man had asked you for payment?

Very likely I might, to the best of my knowledge I do not; but I might.

Have you since the election told Mr. Clarke that Mr. Drayson has called upon you for the Hops.

I don't know that I have.

Do you believe you have?

I might or I might not; I don't remember any thing of such conversation passing.

Will you swear you have not told Mr. Clarke Mr. Drayson has called upon you for the Hops?

If I did say the word, I have entirely forgot it; it has slipped my memory.

Then to the best of your recollection, did you say so or not?

I might to the best of my recollection.

If to the best of your recollection, you might have said so, do you believe you did say so?

I never heard the words you rehearse.

I ask you what you told to Mr. Clarke?

I don't know that we had any conversation since the election about the Hops, to the best of my knowledge.

Will you swear you have not told Mr. Clarke since the election, that Mr. Drayson has

not called upon you for the payment of the Hops?

I can swear it.

Do you believe he has?

I believe he has.

You believe he told Mr. Clarke Mr. Drayson had called upon you?

Yes.

Why did you tell Mr. Clarke Mr. Drayson had called upon you for the Hops, unless you had told Mr. Clarke what was settled at Dunchurch?

I don't know that they are not settled for to my knowledge.

Then perhaps you have some belief that Mr. Clarke did so settle for those Hops at Dunchurch?

I do not know any thing about it.

Do you not believe that Mr. Clarke did settle for these Hops at Dunchurch?

I do not believe it; I believe he did not settle for them; there was no bill or receipt.

I know there was no receipt and no bill.—

Did not Mr. Clarke the next morning tell Mr. Tipson in your presence, it was settled by striking it out of Mr. Drayson's book?

I don't remember a word of the kind; I have no concerns with any thing about that kind.—I never asked him to do any such thing.

Will you swear you did not know before you went to Coventry, that it was settled by striking it out of Mr. Drayson's books?

Not that he settled it; it never was settled to my knowledge.

My question is, whether you did not know and believe, from what passed the morning you went to Coventry, that the Hops had been set-

tled for, by striking out the charge in Mr. Drayson's book?

I do not.

You don't believe it?

I do not.

You did not hear any conversation with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Tipson, relating to it?

Not to my knowledge.

Did you not hear them talking about it, the morning you went to Coventry?

I did not.

When did you ever first hear of Mr. Drayson having struck the Hops out of the book?

I never heard that he had struck it out.

Then you have never heard from any body that Mr. Drayson agreed to strike, or struck the account out of his book before you went to Coventry?

No.

Not after?

No.

Did you not say this to Mr. Clarke since the election, that Mr. Drayson had called upon you for some trifling things which you thought had been settled in the accounts?

No, I never did.

Then you did not tell Mr. Clarke, that Mr. Drayson had called upon you for any thing since the election?

Not to my knowledge.

Are you sure of that?

I am.

Then you could not tell him you thought all had been settled at Dunchurch?

No, I did not.

Nor any thing of that kind?

No.

RE-EXAMINATION.

You purchased of Mr. Drayson a bag of hops?

I did; on a bargain that they were to be paid for as they turned out.

Were they old hops and inferior?

Yes.

Did you ever before or on the morning of the election, or at any time from that day to this authorize Mr. Clarke to settle for you with Mr. Drayson in any way?

Never.

Never upon your oath?

Never.

Did Mr. Clarke upon the morning of the election tell you he had gone and settled for them?

Not to my knowledge.

Have you any doubt of it?

No.

If any thing passed between Mr. Clarke and Mr. Drayson respecting you, was it by your desire or with your knowledge?

It was not.

Therefore whatever crossing out, or whatever might be done, you was not privy to it?

I was not.

Nor ever was told of it?

No.

You said also, that since the election you believed Mr. Drayson did ask about payment?

Yes.

But that there was no price absolutely fixed?

No; and I was not to pay for them till I had used them.

Do you owe him for them now?

Yes.

Has there been any one moment from that time to this that you thought you was not his debtor, but that they were paid for?

No, never.

From the time they were delivered to this time, was there ever a moment in which you knew or had reason to believe you was not a a debtor of Mr. Drayson?

Not a moment.

You say you will not swear that you did not tell Mr. Clarke that Mr. Drayson had asked for the money since?

To the best of my knowledge I never mentioned a word to Mr. Clarke.

You have already said, with respect to Mrs. Burbridge, you never knew of any money being put into her hands?

No.

Nor into the hands of any of her children?

No.

You say you were not to pay for these hops till after they were used?

No.

Are they used now?

No, they were very bad hops.

Are the greatest part of them used?

I should suppose I have used a hundred weight out of the bag.

How was you to ascertain the quality of those hops?

By the using of them.

By the quantity it took with a certain quantity of malt?

Yes.

How much you would pay for them?

Yes; he said he would not hurt me.

And these hops turned out very bad?

Yes.

And for what you know they were so bad he will not expect you to pay any thing?

Yes; he will expect something for them. I gave ten pounds a hundred, and I expect to give three pounds a hundred for these; he told me he should expect three pounds fifteen shillings, but I told him that was too much.

When was the hops brought to you?

I cannot tell to a month or six weeks; but it might be the beginning of October, or a little earlier or a little later.

October twelvemonth you mean?

Yes.

Has Mr. Drayson called upon you to pay for these hops since?

No.

Never since last July?

No; he has never called; he talked one night about it, and said when shall you and I settle about these hops, but he never asked me to pay for them.

You are not sure whether you talked with Mr. Clarke about Drayson paying for these hops?

I did not to the best of my knowledge.

You cannot take upon yourself to swear that?

I cannot.

If Drayson did not call for the hops at all as you tell us, how can you say you did not tell Clarke that he did not call upon you?

I did not ask Mr. Clarke about it.

You say you are not sure whether you have not told Mr. Clarke since July, that Drayson had not called upon you for the hops?

I am not sure; he asked me when I should pay for them one night at his house?

So that if you have had any conversation with Clarke about it, it was in consequence of Drayson asking you that question?

Yes.

If you had any conversation with Mr. Clarke how came you to have that conversation?

I fell into conversation in the kitchen, and talked about the quality of the hops.

You had a bill of three pounds odd that Walker paid you?

Yes.

Did not you say this was a bill incurred by people that went to canvass at Dunchurch?

Yes.

Before the election?

A few days before the election, I don't know whether it was the Sunday or Monday; two went the second day, and the other went the third.

They were people that came to canvass?

Yes, to look for the out-voters.

It was not a bill contracted by people going to vote at the election?

No.

Are you in the habit of purchasing hops of Mr. Drayson?

I never bought any of him before.

How long before the election at Coventry did you purchase these hops?

About October.

Had you determined before you left your house who you would vote for?

Yes.

I suppose you were canvassed by both parties?

Yes.

Had you any particular reason for voting for one party more than the other?

Not the least.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Clarke about striking the hops out of the book?

I had not.

Had you any conversation with any other person about it?

Not the least.

Had Mr. Drayson frequently asked you for the money before the election?

No.

When Walker paid you your bill what did he say?

After he had paid me the bill he asked me to drink.

Before he paid the bill?

He asked if I had not a demand upon the gentlemen of the committee, and I said yes.

What did he do then?

He wrote two or three lines upon a bit of paper, and I put my name to it.

What became of the piece of paper?

He put it in his pocket.

Why did you apply to Mr. Williamson for the money?

Because I was told by one Eglington to call upon him; I gave the bill to him.

Eglington took the bill to Williamson?

Yes; and Eglington sent me word up, if I would call he would pay me.

Who did he send?

A post boy; and when I went to Coventry he told me he had been with Mr. Williamson.

You had made up your mind to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, before you went to ask for your bill?

Yes; for I never polled for the corporation in my life, and never intend it.

Then what induced you to go to live at the Fleur de lis?

Eglington asked me to come there.

But as you had made up your mind to poll, how came you not to poll the first time you went?

I was late, the poll was closed, and I went back the next day.

Do you swear that Hewett told you, you need not pay for what you eat and drank at his house, because the gentlemen of the committee would?

I am sure of it.

Will you swear that?

Yes? I said he was running long lengths, and he said the gentlemen of the committee would satisfy him.

What do you mean by running long lengths?

Because there was such extravagance.

Did you ask Mr. Williamson yourself, for the bill, or did you ask him by means of Eglington?

I went down to Mr. Williamson's house, after I had heard from Eglington.

Do you know Mr. Perkins by sight?

Yes.

Did you see him at Mr. Hewett's house.

I did not, to my knowledge.

Did not you tell Mr. Goode you should vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I did tell him by the way of coming at my money, or else I should never have got it.

But at that time you was determined to vote the other way?

I was.

You did not know those persons that canvassed you, for Mr. Jefferys?

No.

You know Mr. Clarke and Mr. Tipson very well?

Yes; and many others that called.

Is there another public house at Dunchurch?

Yes; seven more.

[Hewett called in again, and part of Shaw's evidence read to him.]

Hewett—I declare I never said that.

Mind, you are upon your oath?

I am very clear Shaw was at my house, and took a supper, and slept there, and I never asked him for any thing.

Did you say the gentlemen of the committee would pay you?

No.

Did you give him any reason when he offered to pay you, why he need not pay you?

He never offered to pay.

Did he tell you you were running long lengths, and ask who was to pay you?

No; in the morning he said he had some business to settle, and he stopped at my house some time; but said nothing of that kind.

Running long lengths?

I did not hear any such thing.

How came you not to ask him for money?

I considered him as a friend to the corporation.

Had you any conversation with respect to his voting?

Yes; Shaw said he was come upon the interest of the corporation; and he said his reason was, he was not used well by Mr. Bird at the election before, and he should vote for the corporation.

Question to Shaw.—Did you say that?

I might very likely say that.

Had you any conversation with Hewett respecting Captain Barlow or Mr. Jefferys, on the former election?

Not that I recollect; Hewett asked me if I should serve them, and I said yes.

Were you determined at that time not to serve them?

Yes; I only gave that answer by way of coming at my money.

And do you swear positively that Hewitt said the gentlemen of the committee would pay you?

I did.

Question to Hewett—Have you any claim upon any body?

None.

Do you hear him?

I have never said so; if I had not conceived him a friend, I should not have asked him to pay.

What had you for supper?

Pickled Salmon.

Any thing else.

I don't recollect.

Did you ever give that man to understand directly, or indirectly, that the expences of what that man had would be defrayed by somebody else?

Never.

Sarah Soden, called in and sworn.

You are the wife of Thomas Soden?

Yes.

You keep the King's-Head at Coventry?

Yes.

Was Mr. Barlow at your house during the election?

Part of the time.

He used to dine there frequently?

When the other gentlemen did.

Who do you mean by the other gentlemen?

Some gentlemen in the town that used to come and dine; Mr. Woodcock, Mr. Inge, Dr. Simpson: I don't know all their names.

Did the same gentlemen dine there when Captain Barlow dined?

They dined several days during the poll.

They dined one day at your house, and another at the Bear?

They did.

Which room did they use to dine in?

The room we call the dining room.

Is there any other room in which there was company in the same interest, living in Coventry?

No.

No other person in the interest of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys came to your house, except those that dined there?

No other belonged to them particularly.

Belonging to the election party?

There were freemen dined sometimes that came from London by the coach.

Were there any freemen that lived in Coventry?

Not that dined at our house.

Did they use to come during the day?

No; none dined but those that came from London by the coach.

Were there any freemen that lived in Coventry?

Not that dined at our house.

Did they use to come during the day?

No; none dined but those that came from London in the coaches, and they had not any thing else.

What number might you have of them?

Very uncertain, eighteen, a dozen, or twenty.

Did they use to stay at your house and sleep there?

Some of them did, that came with the coaches.

Did they use to pay for what they had?

Some did and some did not.

Who paid for those that did not pay for themselves?

They are not paid for yet; I don't know who is to pay for them.

By whose orders did they receive the entertainment?

We had no orders from and body, we do not know who will pay for it.

Do you expect to be paid?

I do not know that we shall.

I ask you if you expect it?

I don't know who to expect it from; we have had no promise, we did not know any more than you did.

Do you expect to be paid by any body?

I don't believe we shall really.

When you furnished this entertainment did you expect to be paid?

At other elections we used to be paid after the election was over by some body; I don't know who.

But this election you had no promise?

No.

Did you at the time you made this entertainment expect to be paid?

We expected it would be paid for, as it was at other elections.

Who did you expect it from?

I don't know.

Do you expect it from any particular party, or any particular person?

No; no particular person, I am sure.

How did you form such expectations, if there was nobody to fulfil them?

As at other elections.

Who might pay you at the last election?

I don't know.

Was you paid at the last election?

I don't know; I suppose I was.

Did you expect Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore to pay you?

No.

Did you expect any body on their part to pay you.—Did you expect Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys to pay you?

We had no right to expect it from them I am sure.

Did you expect it from them?

No.

Did you expect it from the corporation?

We had no order from the corporation.

You had no orders at all?

No; when people came in the coaches, we got dinner for them.

And you got beds for them and supper?

There were not many of them slept.

When people come and eat, and drink, and sleep, you sometime ask for your reckoning?

Yes.

Why did you not in this instance more than at any other time of the year?

We thought they would be paid afterwards as they had been at other elections; but I don't know who was to pay it.

Who did you expect should pay for them?
I can't tell that indeed.
Do you mean that you do not know it?
Yes; I do.
You do not know from what quarter?
No; if we are not paid we must lose it.
But I want to know upon whose account you gave credit?
I can't tell.
You gave credit to those people in the way you describe, and upon your oath you had no reason or no motive to prompt you to it?
That I had not indeed.
Though you expected to be paid, though you furnished those people in consequence of that expectation, though a bill was incurred, you kept an account I suppose?
Yes.
Though the expence was incurred, and you expected to be paid, you swear you had no reason to know from what quarter, from what fund you were to be paid; nor had any reason to expect it from any particular person?
No.
No particular bodies?
No.
Nor committee?
I do not know of any committees.
No member of the committee that you understood?
No.
No member of the corporation of Coventry.
None.
No person active in the election?
No.

Then none of these persons, directly or indirectly, were the persons who were to pay you?

No.

And yet you expect to be paid?

Yes; but we did not know by whom.

Is your husband member of the council?

I fancy he is.

Do you not know he is?

Yes.

He is a farmer too?

Yes.

He keeps to his farming business, and you to the business of the house?

Yes.

Had any body an opportunity of knowing what passes at your house, so much as you do?

No.

Have you the management of the house?

Yes.

Therefore, all that ever has passed, and all that has been done, was under your direction?

Yes.

At those dinners you spoke of, you told me Mr. Inge and Mr. Woodcock were there?

I can't remember all of them.

Was Alderman Williamson there?

I don't think he ever was.

Mr. Ewbank?

I believe Mr. Ewbank was.

Mr. Carter?

Yes; I believe he was one day.

Did the same company in general dine there?

Much the same.

The gentlemen who dined there paid you?

Yes: they had a bill every night.

Why did not you make out a bill, for those you did not, as well as those you did know?

We were in hopes we should be paid some time; we had no orders, nor any reason to think we should be paid.

How came a bill to be made out for this select party?

The gentlemen ordered it; some of the other persons might pay, but I don't know.

They had no bill however?

No.

Do you recollect what was the amount of the bill, if any body should be kind enough to pay it?

I have not cast it up.

Can you guess within twenty or thirty pounds?

I should not think it much more than that; but I cannot pretend to say.

Do you think it is under forty or fifty pounds?

I cannot say.

Do you know enough of it, to know that it is under one hundred pounds?

Yes.

Do you think it is under eighty pounds?

I do not know that.

You are not sure?

No.

There is no bill made out yet?

No.

I need hardly ask you, whether Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore came to your house, or any of their friends?

No.

Suppose any persons who were known to be their friends had come into the house, should you have given them credit if they had come down by the coaches?

We should have given them credit the same, I am sure.

Even if their friends had come to your house, they would have had credit the same?

To be sure they would.

Then having given them credit the same, should you expect to be paid by them?

If we had known Mr. Bird's and Mr. Moore's friends.

I am asking you, if your house was open to their friends, suppose a coach load had come?

If they had chose to have dined, they must have dined.

I mean a party of Mr. Moore's and Mr. Bird's friends, that were known to be so, had come to your house, would you have let them dine without paying?

I should have expected Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore to pay.

But for Mr. Barlow's and Mr. Jeffery's friends, you don't know who ought to pay you?

No.

Mr. Mills.—There is no doubt your husband was a friend to Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

Yes.

Were there not public houses, to which the friends of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore went, as well as houses to which the friends of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys went?

Yes.

The coaches stopt at your house?

Yes.

Whatever expence was incurred, was for provision and entertainment for out voters, was it not?

Yes.

Mr. Soden I am told, is one of the council?

Yes.

How often in ten years has your husband, the farmer, attended the council?

Not five times I dare say.

The gentlemen that dined there were the friends of Mr. Barlow and Mr Jefferys during the poll?

Yes.

Sometimes fifteen, sometimes more, sometimes less.

Yes.

Do you know of any particular restriction of persons who were to dine there?

Not that I heard.

Were you to permit none but committeemen to dine there?

No.

They were the friends of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and they paid for their dinners?

Yes.

Did you receive any direction or order of any kind from any of the corporation as a body?

No.

From any of the members af the corporation as such?

No.

Did you ever refer to any of the corporation for directions?

None.

Did you ever apply to them to be paid.—Did you ever apply to Captain Barlow for the expenditure?

Never.

Captain Barlow lodged at your house.—Did you ever ask him whether such things should be allowed or not?

No.

Did he give any orders at all about it?

No.

Did he ever interfere at all in the entertainments in the house?

No.

I believe you had not much reason to be pleased with Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.—Do you remember when Colonel Brooke was at your house?

Yes.

Do you remember what condition your house was in?

There was a great mob about the house?

Was it safe for him to stay there?

Not for several hours.

Was your house itself in danger?

Yes; I was obliged to send for protections to keep the door.

Do you know of any expenditure, or any thing given to the voters and freemen of Coventry, that were not out-voters who came to your house?

No; I do not.

Then all that is due to you arises from them?

Yes.

Was it mere meat and drink, or a lavish expenditure?

Nothing at all superfluous, very moderate.

Do you believe it may come within fifty pounds?

I cannot pretend to say.

But within one hundred pounds, you are quite sure?

Yes.

Do you know of any other houses open in Coventry besides your's?

I do not call it open, because we had only these voters come.

Were any public houses open in Coventry?

I do not know of any.

Will you take upon you to swear there were not houses open in Coventry; I do not ask on either side, or which side?

I cannot tell; I was never out of my own house.

Mr. Const.—If it had not been for this petition, would you have applied for your bill to any one before this?

I don't know whether we should or not; we should not have known who to apply to.

I think you said the amount of your bill was about fifty pounds?

I cannot pretend to say what sum; I don't know.

Your husband is a member of the corporation?

Yes.

Has he always supported the corporation interest in Coventry?

Yes.

What is the way in which you keep your accounts.—When a traveller comes in is the amount of what he has, put down in a book at your bar; or did the waiter say what he has delivered?

The waiter said what he delivered.

Was that the case with the out-voters?

Yes.

In what book was it entered?

It was entered in a book that we enter other things in.

Have those articles which relate to the election been taken out of the book, and made a separate account?

I do not know that they have.

Will you swear they have not?

I never did; and I don't know that they have.

Who has the care of those books?

I have in part.

Would any body make any extracts from those books on your account, without your directions?

I don't know that they could.

Have any extracts been made from those books?

I don't know that there have.

Have you given any directions for making it out?

No.

At what time of the year do you generally make up your accounts?

We don't put down in our book every thing that gentlemen travellers have.

Do you mean to say you don't know at the end of a certain time whether you have lost or gained by your trade?

No; we do not examine the books.

Captain Barlow paid his bill every day?

Yes.

Then there is nothing owing from Captain Barlow to you?

A dinner or so, nothing else.

Is it 10l.?

No, nor as many shillings.

What directions had the waiters about whom they should charge and whom they should not charge?

They had no directions at all, because they knew we were not paid.

There was a bill carried in to the gentlemen who dined?

Yes.

What description of persons were they of, whom the waiter was required not to take any thing.—I want to know why the waiter

should take upon himself not to report to your bar what he had delivered to particular people?

Because he knew the account would not go in, and would not be paid.

As to the account of what they had had, why was the waiter not to report the legs of mutton or chickens, or whatever there were, at your bar, both eating and drinking?

We put it down certainly.

Then there is an account which could be referred to?

I suppose they could, if I was at home.

There is an account?

Yes.

You have expended a certain quantity of money at the election, which you do not mean to give; do you or do you not expect that the money expended by you in provisions and drink, is to come out of your pocket?

I cannot tell.

Did you expect that it was given?

I was afraid it would, a great part, because we had, no orders from any body to let a farthingsworth go, and therefore we did not expect we should be paid for a great part of it.

Did you receive orders from any person at the former election and got paid?

We got paid, but I don't know by whom.

In former contests you have given meat and drink, and lodging, to out lying voters, without receiving a specific order from any body?

Yes.

After which you have been paid?

Yes.

Upon your oath do you not expect it at this election?

I am sure I cannot pretend to say.

You must know whether you expect to be out of pocket the whole sum of money expended at the election?

I do expect it to be paid certainly.

Why?

Because they have had it; but we don't know from whom to expect it.

Then you have the same reason to expect it, as at former elections?

Yes.

Has your house ever been opened in any interest, but the corporation interest, within the last fifteen years.

No.

Your house has uniformerly been in the corporation interest?

It has.

What is the fare of a passenger from London to Coventry?

The inside is 1l. 8s. the outside 14s.

Did any of the out-lying voters bring their friends who lived in Coventry with them?

They might; but I don't know that they did.

Do you know of any of the rest of the freemen of Coventry, coming to partake of refreshments at your house without paying for?

I do not know.

Were the out-voters, who came down by the coaches, at liberty to bring any friend they pleased to partake of the refreshments?

I do not think they were at liberty.

Did they in fact bring any of the persons residing in Coventry to refresh?

I do not know.

You must know; you are acquainted with all the persons in Coventry?

No, I am not.

How long have you lived at Coventry?

Almost thirty-one years.

Will you take upon yourself to say, these out-lying voters did not bring any of the resident freemen to your house?

I don't think they did, but I cannot say that upon my oath.

Was there any direction given to any waiters, to ask a person whether he was an out-lying or resident voter, previous to supplying him with what he wanted?

I don't think there was.

You stated that several houses were opened for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I suppose they did, in the same way as they did at ours.

Have you any reason to believe any, and what houses, were open for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I have heard there were houses open; I have heard that Mr. Bird's friends went to other houses.

Of your own knowledge?

No; I cannot pretend to say that.

Do you know to what houses the coaches bringing the voters in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore went?

The coaches go to no other house, but ours and the Bear; I believe there may some go to the Castle, I do not know.

Can you name any specific house that was opened for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I have heard there were people dined at the White Horse every day.

Is there any other house?

No.

Do you not know of your own knowledge that the persons brought down by the coaches

of Mr. Birds friends, were carried to Mr. Bird's own house?

I don't know; I have heard the White Horse was open.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

William Sparkes, called in and sworn.

Where do you live?

In Nottingham.

Are you a voter in Coventry

Yes.

Was you at Coventry the last general election?

I was.

Was you employed in any part of the election?

Not particularly.

Had you occasion to attend any committee?

I attended the committee for the receipt of my expence.

Which committee did you attend?

At the Goal-Hall.

Who did you see there?

Mr. Thomas Sharpe was the gentleman who paid me, and Mr. Wood, each was there; I do not recollect any other gentlemen.

What did you receive there?

Two pounds fifteen, the expences of my journey from Nottingham to Coventry, together with that of Valentine Budd, whom I brought with me from Nottingham; I defrayed his expences by the direction of Mr. Wm. Payne.

Had you any interview with Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I was that evening introduced to Mr. Jefferys, at the White Bear Inn, with a person, with whom I supped.

Did you sleep with him?

No, not in the same room.

Who was in the room were you supped?

Myself, Valentine Budd, a person of the name of Calduott, who came in that evening, and I suppose from twelve to twenty persons; I did not know them all.

Do you happen to know whether they were resident in Coventry or not?

I think I recollect one person who was resident in Coventry.

What is his name?

I think his name is Eaves.

Where about in Coventry did he live?

I think in Grey Friars Lane.

Was he a voter?

Yes; and in general a pretty active bustling man at an election.

He was of the party which supped with you?

Yes.

Did you see him afterwards?

Yes.

Do you know the Fleur de lis?

Yes.

Was you ever there?

Yes.

It is kept by Hewett?

Yes.

What did you go there for.

I frequently called, I wished to render the party I intended to serve, any service I was capable of; when I wanted to see individuals I in general went there, as there were generally a number of persons there from morning till evening.

What description of persons were there?

In general the lower order.

Where these persons composed of out-voters or residents, or both?

Both indifferently.

Did they eat or drink there?

I don't recollect seeing any person eat there, I rather think, I was never there at meal times.

Did you ever see any other refreshment?

Yes; Ale, rum and water, and brandy and water.

Did you pay for any other person?

I paid for the person I took with me, but afterwards I was informed.

Was you informed by any body concerned in the election?

No; I had frequently had refreshment.

Was you ever asked for payment?

No; I sometimes paid, but if I was in a hurry I did not, neither was there any necessity; any person might go in and drink and leave the house without paying.

Do you mean he might do it as a friend of Hewett's, or for any other reason?

I cannot speak positively as to that.

Did those persons who went there pay for what they wanted, or was it given away without?

I dare say I had seen to the number of fifty persons, and all, as far as I am informed, had no occasion to pay; there was no demand made for payment.

Did they partake of liquor and refreshment?

Yes; all had brandy and water, and rum and water.

Was that confined to a few particular friends of Hewett's, or was it general?

It was general, there was nothing demanded.

Was it not so understood by every body?

Yes.

And at many of these times you have been present?

Yes, I cannot specify the number of persons.

In what interest were those persons?

Friends of Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

You, yourself, I believe, did vote for them?

I did.

And did not you do what you could to serve them?

I did.

When you took Budd to the Fleur de lis, you paid for him?

I paid for him more than once.

How far is Nottingham from Coventry?

Fifty-two miles; but I went by way of Birmingham to avoid sleeping on the road.

You were paid two pounds fifteen, as that your expences on the road?

Yes; including what I had expended with Budd in Nottingham; he remained, I believe till after the chairing, at least, he so informed me.

And was that the fair expence of bringing your friend from Nottingham to Coventry, prior to his voting?

Yes.

How often have you been at the Fleur de Lis?

I cannot ascertain the number of times, I think I was there a dozen times.

You said you sometimes paid, and sometimes did not pay?

The first day I did pay, not knowing it was what we considered an open house.

You paid on the Monday?

I did.

Were you there on Tuesday?

T'was on the Monday afternoon, I did not pay; I paid on Monday morning, I was not there on Monday evening, I called two or three times on Tuesday, I expected to have found the person I brought with me from Nottingham there, but I did not meet with him.

Did you drink every time in the house?

I drank twice on Tuesday morning.

Can you venture to swear no one of the persons paid?

I cannot swear that, but I rather think no person paid, it was optional. I will swear that I did not pay from the period I was informed it was unnecessary for us to pay.

Who informed you?

I don't recollect.

Did you come with a determined resolution of supporting Mr. Barlow and Mr Jefferys?

I came in consequence of a promise I had made; my nephew wrote to me, desiring me to make his father's house my own, but I did not.

You did not eat any thing at the Fleur de Lis?

No, I only drank; I did not eat, nor did I see any person eating.

At the different times while you were at the Fleur de Lis, did you see any distinction made between a resident and a non-resident voter?

Not the least.

A resident voter by going to that house might have obtained liquor?

Yes, I know those that had.

The two pounds fifteen was paid to you at the Gaol Hall?

Yes.

Do you mean two pounds fifteen was paid by an order there, or in money?

In money, I received it at the committee, from Mr. Sharp.

Do you know Alderman Perkins?

Yes.

Did you see him at the Fleur de Lis?

I do not recollect seeing him there.

Do you know his son?

Perfectly well.

Did you see him there?

I don't recollect that.

Did you ever hear Hewett say at whose expence the Fleur de Lis was opened?

Yes.

You voted for Mr. Barlow and Jefferys?

Yes.

Have you had any quarrel with any person in their interest since?

No.

You have never any disatisfaction at receiving two pounds fifteen.

Yes I did; I applied to the same committee for my expences to go back. I had the sum made up four guineas, paid by the said gentlemen.

Did you apply for any thing beyond the four guineas?

I did not.

Were you satisfied with that sum?

I was a loser, I estimated since to a person in Nottingham that I was a loser; but I did not make application to the committee more than the second time.

When did you first give information to Mr. Moore or Mr. Bird, or their agents, of what you knew of this business?

I do not know, I had no idea of being subpœned.

Did they first apply to you as a witness, or did you go and give information of what you knew?

I was in casual conversation with a person at Nottingham, of the name of Leigh, and little thought of being subpœned.

Then you did not give information in consequence of your not receiving a sufficient allowance for your expences?

No.

How much did it cost you in Coventry?

I believe about two guineas.

For yourself and Budd?

No.

By your travelling expences do you include the expences to the carriage that conveyed you, or that you laid out so much money on the road or refreshment?

I paid the carriage out of it.

Did you leave Coventry without paying for every thing you had at Hewett's house?

I did not pay for half what I had at his house.

Did Hewett ever refuse payment when you tendered it to him?

No.

Did you ever ask him why he was not to be paid?

I never did.

When you asked for the money at the Gaol Hall, was it given to you merely because you were an out-lying voter from Nottingham; did they ever inquire from whence you came?

No, they did not inquire the distance. I mentioned to them that I came from Nottingham, and they knew me.

And you mentioned that sum to them?

Yes.

You say you did not pay for half what you had at Hewett's house, how much might it amount to?

I don't imagine that I drank altogether more than two shillings or half-a-crown's worth.

Where did you dine when you was at Coventry, did you pay for your dinner?

I lived at Mr. Butterworth's

[The witness ordered to withdraw.]

ELIZABETH FREEMAN, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

In Coventry.

Where about?

In Cook Street; it is the corner of Sieve Street and Cook Street.

Do you keep a public house?

Yes.

What is the sign of your house?

The Jolly Weavers.

During the last election did any of the freemen frequent your house?

Yes.

What time in the day did they come?

Several times in the day.

Did they sup there?

Sometimes.

How many used to come there?

A great many at times.

Did you know them?

Yes, I used to know them because they were customers.

They lived in Coventry?

Yes.

How many generally supped?

I cannot tell, for I never was in the room when they supped.

How many did you prepare supper for?

Twenty, thirty, sometimes more than that.

Had they a bill afterwards?

I did not give them any; I never saw any bill.

Did they go away without paying always?

I believe they did. I never saw them pay.

Did you ever receive any money from them?

I never did.

It is owing now?

Yes, it still remains as it was.

Whereabout is the bill?

There was a bill made, but my husband is no scholar, he could not write it.

Who wrote the bill?

I don't know.

What became of the bill?

I don't know.

Did you know any body, who gave orders for those gentlemen?

No, I never knew any one gave orders.

Who did you expect was to pay for it?

I don't know, I should like to know very well.

Whose friends were they that used to sup with you, in what party?

Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

When they called for any thing did they have it without any question?

No; I questioned with them after, and said, I should like to know who was to pay me.

Did any of them insist on paying the bill?

No.

Did you continue to supply them?

Yes.

How came that?

I was not master.

Your husband is master is he?

Yes.

Is he in town?

No.

Do you know the amount of the bill?

No.

Where about?

More than forty pounds I believe.

Were those all of them people that you knew, and that lived in the town?

Yes, most of them.

Why did not you apply to them for payment?

I have talked to them several times about it.

Who did you expect to pay it?

I cannot tell.

Did you happen to have any of Mr. Bird's friends and Mr. Moore's come to sup with you?

No, I believe not.

You had the management of this house as well as your husband?

Yes.

Was this supper every night?

Yes, every night during the election.

Was it provided for any particular number?

No; a piece of meat was bought, sometimes more, sometimes less.

Did you provide the supper?

No my husband.—I never went to fetch any thing at all.

Do you mean to say no person gave you directions?

No.

How did you know how many were to sup?

My husband did.

Did you ever see Mr. Barlow there?

No.

Did you ever see Mr. Jefferys there?

No.

Did any of the gentlemen of the corporation come to the freemen who assembled there?

Yes.—Mr. Mullis who was our mayor then.

Did he come of an evening when the freemen were assembled at supper?

I saw him there once.

Was it in the evening when they were assembled to sup?

I can't say whether it was morning or evening.

What did he say?

I did not hear him say any thing in my presence.

Was he in the habit of coming to your house?

Not very often.

Had you ever seen him there before?

Yes, I had seen him at our house before time; we lived near neighbours.

Did he use to frequent your house?

No, not any thing of that.

Did he sit down with the freemen?

I don't recollect, because I was not in the room.

How long was he there?

I can't say.

Did you recollect any other of the gentlemen of the corporation calling at your house?

I knew very few of the gentlemen, I can't tell.

Do you recollect any gentlemen of the town, whether of the corporation or not, calling at your house?

I don't recollect.

Do you recollect any of the members of the drapers company coming to your house when the Freemen were there?

I don't recollect.

Did Mr. Woodcock come to your house?

No; I don't know him.

Mr. Carter?

No.

Mr. Williamson?

I never saw him.

Mr. Inge?

I don't know him.

Mr. Perkins?

He never was at my house in his life, to my knowledge.

Was Mr. Mullis the only gentleman you can recollect coming to your house?

Yes.

What did Mr. Mullis come for?

I don't know.

Was it during the poll?

Yes, it was to the best of my knowledge.

Did you ask him to pay the bill?

I did not.

Not any thing about the bill?

No.

Was there any particular person above the rest that took the management of the supper?

No.

Who presided at the supper?

I don't know that there was any body an overlooker.

Who was at the head of the table?

I never was in the room; my husband and my daughter waited.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

John Simpson, called in and sworn.

Do you keep the Thistle public house in Coventry?

I do.

During the last election, did any of the freemen frequent your house?

They did.

Many?

Some few.

Did they come every day?

Most days, more or less.

Did you know them?

Some of them I did.

Were any of them those that lived at Coventry?

Yes; most of them was Coventry people.

Did they use to eat and drink there?

Yes.

Did those eat and drink, that you did not know, as well as those that you did?

Some did and some did not.

Did they do that every day?

Most days; but not every day.

I don't mean whether the same people eat and drank with you?

Every day there was some there.

Not always the same?

No.

What number might there be?

I don't recollect.

Was any bill made out to them?

No.

Did they have what they called for?

Yes; I drawed them what they choose to eat or drink; I was a well wisher to the party, and so were they.

Did any of them pay?

No.

Then you are the whole of the money out of pocket?

I hope not.

You are at present?

Yes; I have never received a halfpenny yet.

Nor any money lent?

No.

Do you expect to be paid?

I hope so.

By whom do you expect to be paid?

I don't know.

Have you applied to any body?

No.

Never had any conversation with any body about the money that was owing to you?

No.

Do you know young Mr. Goode, the goaler?

Yes.

Have you held any conversation with him?

No.

Nor with any body else?

No.

What do you pay a year for your house?

Twenty-four pounds.

Have you any other business?

No.

What may be the amount of the bill?

I don't know.

Therefore if any body was to ask you how much it was to pay you, you could not tell?

I could not tell;—I have no demand upon any body.

If any body was to offer to pay you, you don't know what it is.

No.

You would not have been able to tell them within five pounds?

No.

You have never made out an account?

No.

Perhaps you never entered any account?

No; I had no account at all.

Then you have never had any thing entered at all?

No.

You keep no books?

No, I do not.

You kept no books during the election?

No.

Did you put down what you furnished?

No.

They called for what they would, and they eat and drank, and you made no account?

No.

You made no memorandum?

I made a memorandum within myself.

About how much; as far as your memorandums in your own mind goes?

Forty or fifty pound, or more.

Was it not more than 50l.?

It might be a little more.

Was it not 60l.?

I can't justly say.

Then you don't know how much it is at all?

No, I can't tell.

Have you ever told any body it was upwards of 100l.

I don't know that I did.

Will you swear you have not, within a week past, told any body it was upwards of 100l.?

I will not swear about it.

Is it not true that you have told some body within a week, it was upwards of 100l. and more than one person too?

I don't know that I have.

Did you not tell Mr. James Harris so, for one?

I might.

When did you tell James Harris so?

I don't know what day it was.

Was it not since you have been in town?

I believe it was.

Have you any doubt that it was?

No, I have not.

Have you told any body else?

No.

Have you told any body else besides Harris that it was more than 100l.?

I don't know; I might have mentioned it to Mr. Mason.

What guide in your mind had you, when you said that?

They asked me the question, I had no guide at all.

Then why did not you tell when I asked you?

I did.

No; you said about half this is your bill, 100l.?

I believe it is.

Have you asked Mr. Goode for the payment of that bill?

I did not.

Have you ever stated to any body that you have?

To my knowledge I never did.

Who did you expect is to pay you?

I do not know; I live in hopes that somebody will.

You have nothing to depend upon but what you get in this public house.

No.

You have nobody particularly to apply to for payment?

Nobody.

To whom do you intend to apply to for the payment?

I never attended to apply to any body.

Who did you expect was to pay you when you opened your house?

I don't know.

In whose interest were the persons that came to your house?

The corporation.

Did you expect it of the corporation?

I don't know who to expect it of.

Did you expect it of the corporation?

No, I did not.

Nor of any one member of the corporation?

None.

Did you ever see Captain Barlow at your house?

Never; nor Mr. Jefferys, I never spoke to them during the election?

You had no right to expect it of them.—And you don't know any body else from whom you did expect it?

No.

How came you to give away those articles without the payment?

I was a well wisher of the party, and was it to come again I would do the same.

What would you do again?

Draw them some beer, and give them something to eat and drink.

Without any expectation at all of being paid?

I would.

Have you any other mode of getting your livelihood but by keeping this public house?

No.

Have you any fortune you live upon besides this house?

No.

Have you been in the habit of giving long credit to the amount of one hundred pounds?

I have done before.

What did the election cost you?

I don't know.

Did you mean to part with the liquor and provisions as a gift?

I did.

Have you no claim upon any body?

No.

But you have stated you expected to be paid, and you hope it is not lost.—If you meant to give it, how can you hope to be paid for it?

I do not look for any payment at all.

But you have stated, you hope it would not be lost, how do you reconcile this.—Do you look for any thing else in return for it besides money?

No.

Do you swear that previous to the opening the house you had no conversation upon the subject of voting?

I had not.

Upon what day did you take it into your head to open your house?

I can't recollect the day.

When did it come into your head to shut up your house?

When the election was over.

And why did it come into your head to do it then?

Because it was over.

Were those the lower sorts of people?

Both sorts.

Amongst the uppermost gentry, name any of the persons?

I cannot.

Are people of high rank in the habit of coming to your house?

No.

Did any of the aldermen come into your house?

They did not.

That you swear?

Yes.

Did any of the members of the drapers company come in?

I can't say that.

In whose interest was your house open?

In the corporation interest.

What do you mean by that?

The low party.

When did you see Mr. Mullis?

I have not seen him a long time.

Do you know Mr. Perkins?

Yes, I do.

Where did you see him?

I have not seen him a long while.

How long ago?

Three weeks, or a month since.

Have you had any conversation with him about the election?

No; I have not.

Have you had any conversation with any leading persons in Coventry, who took a part in the election, with respect to opening a house?

I have not.

Will you swear that?

Yes.

You swear then that at the last election at Coventry you gave away meat and drink?

Yes.

And what was given away in your house, you do not in your mind expect to be paid?

No.

Then why did you state that you did expect

it; you had better speak the truth, it must come out at last?

I said I lived in hope.

What do you mean by living in hope, have you no reason for that hope?

No.

Then why do you entertain it; do you mean to apply to any person to pay it?

No.

Was your house open of your own free will and accord?

Yes.

Did you keep a public house at the election before the last?

I did not.

This is the first contest that you have known at Coventry?

Yes.

You opened a house of your own free will and accord?

Yes.

Did any body advise you to open the house?

No; I had no advice from any body.

Did any body advise you to keep an account?

No.

Are you one of the voters?

Yes.

Who did you vote for?

Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

As you voted for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, had you seen either of them before you opened the house?

I had not.

When did you open the house?

At the beginning of the election.

Did you open it before the poll began?

I believe I did.

Had you seen Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys before you opened the house?

I had not.

Did you see them before the election?

I saw them in the booth.

Did you tell either of them that you had opened a house.

No.

Did you tell any body in their hearing?

No.

Tell the committee the names of any of the gentlemen who came to your house during the election?

I can't recollect.

Was Mr. Mills there?

No, he was not there.

You can recollect who was not there; try and recollect who was there; was Mr. Williamson there?

No.

Mr. Woodcock?

No.

Mr. Ewbank.

No.

Was Mr Sharpe there?

Not to my knowledge.

Was Mr. Sharpe there, aye or no?

I believe he was not.

Will you swear whether he was there or not?

He was not.

Was Mr. Inge there?

No; I never saw Mr. Inge in my house, in my life.

Was Mr. Perkins there?

Not during the election.

He was at your house before the election then?

No.

Since the election?

He called at my house and had sixpenny worth.

Was he in the habit of coming to your house before the election?

He kept the house before me.

Did he ask you about the bill?

No.

Tell us the names of any of the common people, who were at your house.

I can't recollect the names of any of them scarcely now, it is so long since.

Do you keep this public house for yourself, or do you keep it, as being put it by another person?

I keep it myself.

Upon your account, and for your own profit

Yes.

From whom have you your malt?

I have my malt from Mr. Bosworth.

You brew your own beer?

Yes.

Are you a man of sufficient substance to be able to give away one hundred pounds.

Yes.

Will you swear that?

Yes.

And you have no other mode of getting your livelihood, but in that house?

No.

Who do you rent your house of?

Mr. Woodward in London.

Is he one of the corporation?

No.

Did you hear any body say before the elec-

tion, that those who opened houses would be paid afterwards?

No.

What was you before you kept this public house?

I was with my father, a farmer; I was bred a butcher.

[*Mr. Const* stated to the committee, that he having an office copy of the conviction of one Richard Vaughan, to produce, and be proved by a witness who must leave town soon, it would be a favour done to him, to permit the witness to prove it now.]

Agreed to.

James Crossfield called in and sworn.

Have you examined that record of conviction with the original?

I have.

Is that a true copy?

It is; I had it from the clerk of assize.

Where did you examine it?

I examined it with the Deputy Clerk of Assize, on the Midland Circuit.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Wednesday March 9th, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

The following resolution was read.

Determined, That although the petitioning candidates no longer claim the return; the counsel for the sitting members are at liberty to prove that the petitioning candidates did act in violation of the Seventh of William, Cap. 4th.

John Carter, called in and sworn.

You are an attorney, at Coventry?

I am.

Do you remember having been at the White Bear inn, at Coventry, during the election?

I was there several times.

Do you remember being there one afternoon, at which a number of out-voters arrived at that inn, from Leicester.

I do.

Do you remember who those voters were?

I remember the name of one of them; I cannot charge my recollection with any others.

Who was that one?

Joseph Swaine.

Where was you at the time of the arrival of the carriages?

In a large dining room, in company with Captain Barlow, Mr. Jefferys and their friends.

Can you name any other persons who were present in the room?

I think Mr. Edward Percy was there.

Did you that evening see Swaine there?

I did; when I first saw him, he shook hands with me, I took him by the hand, and said I was glad to see him: I do not recollect any thing further, having passed at the time I saw him; he was in an open room, a landing place at the top of the stairs; it is about half the size of this room, a landing place upon the first floor.

Do you recollect any thing else having passed between you?

No.

Did you make him any offer or promise, with respect to his vote?

I certainly did not.

Can you, upon your oath, say whether you did or did not, give him any money?

I can take upon myself positively to say I did not.

In what condition was Swaine, with respect to sobriety?

He certainly was drunk.

Did you see his wife with him?

I saw a woman, I believe to be his wife.

Was there any money in your hands, or in the hands of Swaine, that you saw during the time of your conversation?

None.

There was no money passed between any persons, in the presence of this woman?

None, that I saw.

How long was your conversation with Swaine?

I was not on the landing place alone three minutes, and never saw him but on the landing place.

Did you go into any private room with him?

I did not.

Do you know a person of the name of Harris?

I do; William Harris.

Had you ever any conversation with him, about his vote?

I had.

What passed between you?

I went with Mr. Ewbank to ask him if he would vote for Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys; he told me he had not made up his mind which way he should vote; but he thought he should vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore: he said he had received a letter from his daughter or son-in-law, I do not recollect which; containing a desire to get his son off; and he had promised it.

Did you promise him any sort of advantage for his vote?

I did not.

Where was it?

At the house of Harris.

About what time?

About seven or eight o'clock in the evening: I can't say what day it was, during the poll.

Is Harris a tenant of yours?

No; he never was.

A person of the name of Hill, I think was a tenant of your's?

He was, about four years ago.

Did you apply to Hill, for his vote?

No; I never applied to him for his vote.

Therefore it is unnecessary for me to ask you, if you threatened him?

I did not.

Did you directly, or indirectly, threaten him with any consequences if he did not vote for Capt. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I did not; I saw him but once, and that was

in the kitchen of the goal, in company with Combe and several other persons; and to the best of my recollection I had no conversation with him at all.

Mr. Clark, I believe, is your father in law?

Yes; he is the father of my late wife.

Did he come down to Coventry during the election?

He came down after the election closed; he came to the chairing.

Was any application made by Mr. Clark about an umbrella?

Yes; the umbrella was at my house.

You say you remember a man of the name of Swaine?

I do.

You do not remember who was with him?

I do not remember who was with him; I understood they were voters from Leicester.

Did not you know the person of Swaine?

I did.

On what night was it he arrived?

To the best of my recollection, it was the first day of the poll; but I cannot be positive.

I think you said you only saw him upon the stair case?

I only saw him upon the landing place.

You was not in the room with him?

I certainly was not.

Not at any time during the election?

No; I never saw him afterwards, unless the day he came up to poll: I saw him poll.

Was you to have seen him afterwards?

Certainly not.

What might be your conversation, when you saw him on the stair case?

He presented me his hand, and shook hands

with me; I told him I was glad to see him; I do not recollect any other conversation.

You came from the dinner room?

Yes; there is a very long passage which leads to the landing place, going down stairs; I was called for out of the room, to speak to a person at the top of the stairs.

Was that person at the top of the stairs when you spoke to him?

Yes; it was a person, I think, of the name of Matthews; I had come from the poll booth and had been home, in consequence of the illness of a part of my family.

What time did the poll close?

That day it closed at six.

Was it before, or after dinner that you saw Swaine?

It must be after dinner.

What time might that be then?

I should think between seven and eight.

Do you recollect whether any body else than Mr. Matthews was present?

There were a great many people on the stair-case, he sent for me once out of the room, and I think it was that day.

Was his wife on the stair-case?

Yes; I understood it to be his wife; I saw her examined the other day, but I had no recollection of her person; she was urging him to go home.

Was any body persuading him not to go home?

I do not recollect that there was.

When she was urging him to go home, was it not in consequence of some person applying to him to stay or to drink?

I heard no person apply to him to drink, certainly; and I saw no liquor, and I do not re-

collect hearing any person urging him to stay: he seemed very loath to go with his wife.—I do not recollect any body attempting to persuade him to stay in my presence, to the best of my recollection.

Do you know where his mother-in-law lived in Coventry?

I know where she lived; I do not know where she lives now; she did live three years ago at the top of Spon Street.

You never called upon him there?

No.

Did you ask him for his vote?

No, I did not; because I expected he came there with a determination to vote for Barlow and Jefferys.

You made him no promise, nor any offer?

No.

Do you know a person of the name of Hill; you saw him once in the kitchen of the goal?

In the passage leading to the kitchen.

Do you know that he had a communication with your brother?

No; not that I know of.

You have a brother?

Yes.

A miller?

Yes.

And you have now no reason to know that he had had a communication with your brother?

I do not.

You did not ask him for his vote?

I certainly did not.

Members.—You are an Attorney at Coventry?

I am.

Who are you in partnership with?

Mr. Inge, the town-clerk.

He is clerk to the Draper's Company?

No; he is not connected with the Draper's Company in any way.

Did you know of any subscription entered into, for the purpose of defraying the expences of the election?

I agreed myself to subscribe fifty pounds.

Do you know of any subscription for the purposes of the election?

Not of my own knowledge; I have heard there are subscriptions.

Was it a matter of public notoriety?

I heard it from Mr. Woodcock and Mr. Inge particularly.

Did you hear either of them say to what amount Captain Barlow had agreed to subscribe towards the expences of the election?

I heard that he had paid into the hands of Mr. Woodcock, one thousand pounds.

Did you hear that from Mr. Barlow himself?

I did not.

How much did you hear that Mr. Jefferys had paid towards the expences of the election?

I heard that he had paid into the hands of Mr. Dickens, the sum of five hundred pounds.

Did you hear how much was subscribed?

I heard about three thousand pounds; I never heard of any individual subscriptions, but Mr. Inge, Mr. Little, and Mr. Woodcock.

The purse was kept at Mr. Woodcock's?

I have heard it from Mr. Woodcock: I heard Mr. Woodcock mention it upon his being summoned up to town.

Have you never had access to that purse?

No

Never received any money that any other person took out of that purse during the election?

Not any sum whatever.

Had you paid your fifty pounds that you agreed to subscribe?

I have not paid it to this amount.

Did you expend any sum of money during the election?

I paid for every dinner; but not any thing else.

What acquaintance had you with Captain Barlow, before the time of his becoming a candidate to represent the city of Coventry?

I never saw him before to the best of my knowledge.

Should you have given him and Mr. Jefferys your support, unless they had agreed to subscribe a competent sum of money towards the expences of the election?

I certainly should; because I had began to act before I heard that any sum of money was subscribed—I certainly should have done all that lay in my power to serve them.

You recollect this person of the name of Swaine?

Yes

Did he make any application to you to endeavour to get him the corporation fifty pounds?

He never did.

Did he ask you to get him any thing else; a lease?

He did not.

That you swear positively?

A new lease had been granted before I saw Swaine at his mother's; she took it at public auction.

Do you recollect a person of the name of Percy being present at the White Bear?

Mr. Percy certainly was at the White Bear that day.

You was in the dining-room?

Yes.

Do you remember Mr. Percy bringing Swaine up to Captain Barlow, to shake hands with him?

Not while I was there.

Was you absent during any part of the time that Swaine was at the house?

Yes.

Was you there when Swaine arrived?

I am not positive; I think I was there when the chaise arrived.

Did you see him go away?

I think I saw them taking him down the stairs.

I think you said you had been home?

Yes.

Did you leave the White Bear, between the time of his arrival there, and his being taken home?

I did.

You went, you say, with Mr. Ewbank to a person of the name of Haines?

I did.

Do you remember any thing being said by Mr. Ewbank to Haines, about Bablake?

Mr. Ewbank did not say any such thing in my presence.

Do you recollect his saying any thing about the four pounds?

He did not; that I swear positively.

You were present during the whole of the time that Mr. Ewbank was with Haines?

I was.

You stated that you agreed to subscribe fifty pounds?

Yes.

When did you agree to subscribe fifty pounds?

I cannot tell the period exactly; but it was before the poll.—Mr. Inge asked me if I had any objection to subscribe.

What did Mr. Inge say?

He said several persons had agreed to subscribe; he named Mr. Woodcock, and Mr. Little; and he said the corporation had agreed to subscribe five hundred pounds.

Do you know of your own knowledge of any subscription papers?

No; I never saw any person write their names, as agreeing to subscribe.

You do not know from Mr. Little, or any other quarter, the amount of the subscription, exclusive of the corporation and the candidates?

No, I heard Mr. Buck say he had agreed to subscribe; but I did not know the sum.

Then exclusive of the three thousand pounds, you only know of Mr. Inge, yourself, and Mr. Buck?

I don't know of any others.

Did you support Captain Barlow on account of the good opinion you had of him and of his principles?

I did not know either the one or the other; I heard from Colonel Elliot that Captain Barlow bore an extremely good character.

Upon your oath, would you have supported Captain Barlow, if you had not understood that he was supported by the Draper's Company and the corporation?

I should not.

Do you know how much of the money in the purse has been expended?

I do not.

You don't know whether any part of it now remains?

I do not.

Have you ever been asked to pay, yourself?

I have not.

You hold yourself still in readiness to pay it when called upon?

Yes.

Do you know if the accounts of the election have been made out?

I have no reason to believe they have or have not.

Upon your oath, if these accounts had been made up, do you think you should not have been called upon to pay?

I think I should.

Was you only to pay in case of a deficiency, or pro rata?

Pro rata.

Has Hill stated truly that he was in your debt at the time of the election?

He was.

Did you mention that circumstance to him at the time of the election?

No; he has ceased to be my tenant, but he was a poor man, and I never thought of suing him for it, or troubling him.

To what amount was his debt?

I think between nine and ten pounds.

How did Haines vote?

He voted for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

You knew nothing of Captain Barlow before he offered himself as a candidate?

I did not.

Whence arose the circumstance of your supporting Captain Barlow, who was a stranger, in opposition to a person well known in the town?

I always opposed Mr. Bird.

Did you always oppose Mr. Jefferys?

No.

Upon your oath would you have supported Mr. Jefferys, if he had not been supported by the Draper's Company, and the Corporation?

I should not.

Have you any reason to know that the expences of the election were sanctioned by Captain Barlow?

I have no reason to know it.

Have you been paid, or do you expect to be paid for the trouble you took at the election?

Certainly not.

Withdrew.

ELIZABETH TWIST, *called in and sworn.*

What is your husband's name?

John.

You live at Coventry?

Yes; in High-street.

Is it near the situation where the poll was taken?

No; he has moved since.

Where did you live at that time?

In Cross Cheaping, about twenty yards off; the house was facing.

What use was made of your house at the time of the election?

Mr. Bird's friends had it for the use of the freemen, both for eating and drinking.—My husband sent Mr. Bird word that he should be welcome to the use of the house to put his out-voters in; Mr. Bird accepted of it. And on the

Monday the freemen came again, and they had both meat, bread, cheese, ale, liquors, and every thing of that description provided for them; and there they remained till the poll was over.

Was a person of the name of Elizabeth Nixon, employed by you?

Yes; she was the person who cooked the meat: there were four legs of mutton came in, and four shoulders to be cooked; it came in unknown to me, and I having my family to take care of, sent for her to cook it, and kept her till the Saturday.

Did any voters resident in the town come to your house?

To the best of my knowledge they were all kinds of freemen.—I believe most of the freemen were in first and last belonging to Mr. Bird.

Am I to understand that there were freemen, both out and in-voters?

Yes.

What number might be there in the course of one day?

I cannot particularly speak to any number.

Can you tell us nearly the number?

No, I cannot; there might be one hundred in, backwards and forwards in the course of the day, or more than that.

Do you know a person of the name of Samuel Stringer?

Yes.

Edward Arnold?

Yes.

Joseph Westcott?

Yes.

William Mann?

Yes.

Were those persons at your house during the election?

Yes; they were the persons who eat up the meat, and had the management of all that was to do.—Stringer was the man who kept the door.

How many days were they employed?

Five whole days.

Do you know a person of the name of Salmons?

Yes.

What was his employment at your house?

He used to assist with the bread and cheese, and things that came in; he was a person that used to go of errands.

Did you ever see Mr. Bird or Mr. Moore at your house?

I saw Mr. Bird, but never saw Mr. Moore; I saw young Mr. Moore.

How often did you see Mr. Bird there?

Four or five times.

How many times did he appear to come in one day?

Sometimes once, and sometimes two or three times.

Had he an opportunity of seeing what was passing at your house?

Yes; he must see it.

How often could Mr. Moore's son be there?

Most days; once or twice a day.

Do you remember seeing Mr. Bird at your house, at the close of the poll?

Yes.

State the conversation that passed between you and him at that time?

There was no conversation passed between him and me; he went up stairs and Arnold came down and said there was no more to be

given away, because Mr. Bird had stopped it. There was bread and cheese, and other things that were left taken away; I do not know where it was taken to.

When was this?

On Saturday morning; it might be two or three hours before the poll closed.

Can you speak at all to the quantity of liquor that was consumed in your house?

I cannot speak to any quantity, there was a good deal came in first and last; but I can't speak to the quantity.

Do you know whether there was one, two, three, or four barrels of beer?

There were five or six barrels altogether.

Can you speak to the quantity of meat?

Yes; On the Monday there were four legs of mutton, and four shoulders brought in; there might be that quantity cooked every day, and there was a piece of beef.

This house of your's was near the poll booth?

Yes.

Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys had a house a little way from the poll booth?

I do not know it.

Do you know the Peacock public house?

Yes, I do.

How far is it from your house?

I suppose about twenty yards.

Why did not you say so at first.

I did not recollect it.

How long have you lived in that house?

About four years.

Your husband at this time was in prison?

Yes; and is now.

I also understand he sent for Mr. Bird, and

said, e might have your house to put his out-voters in?

Yes.

You yourself offered it, I believe, as well as your husband?

No; nor I did not know that my husband had offered it, till a person came from Mr. Bird's committee, and desired to have a room.

You say there was bread and cheese, and beer, and other things; and meat given to these people?

Yes.

Were the people who came there, persons who came from a distance, and had no homes in Coventry, or where they persons who lived in the town, who came there to eat and drink?

There were both.

Do you mean that the men who came to your house, came at that time only, or were they persons who used to come to your house, as a public house?

They came backwards and forwards.

Do you not, upon your oath, believe they came there as an asylum from the weather, till they could get up to the poll?

No; it was not wet, only one day.

Upon your oath, was not that the reason?

They came to drink.

Do you mean to say that persons within twenty yards of the booth, came to eat and drink at your house, at the expence of the candidates?

It must have been at the expence of somebody.

Will you take upon you to say at whose expence it was at, of your own knowledge?

No, I cannot.

Did Mr. Bird ever give orders for any thing,

Not to my knowledge.

Did you ever receive any message from him, for any thing to be given away?

No.

Was not the only message you understood from Mr. Bird, that no more should be given away as soon as the poll was closed, and when the out-voters could no longer remain for any good purpose?

That was the first message I could have from Mr. Bird.

After the poll was over, the out-voters did, or ought to have gone away?

That I do not know any thing about.

Did any of them in fact, stay there afterwards?

No; they did not.

After that did any person come to your house, or did they get any thing.

Not after that.

Did any body come to your house, or have any thing before the poll began?

No; the poll was on three days before any body came to our house; there was nothing given away till the Monday, after the Thursday that the poll began.

You have told us what passed during the time of polling?

Yes.

Was your house kept open to entertain people at night, after the poll was over?

No.

Was there a single thing ever had by any voter that you know of, after the poll was over?

No; Arnold, the Glazier, locked up every thing when the poll was over, and took the other keys with him as soon as the poll was closed every evening.

All then that happened with respect to this refreshment, was during the time they were going backwards and forwards polling?

Yes; it was.

You said you had seen Mr. Bird several times in your house?

Yes.

Was it not Mr. Bird's business to come and take up the voters to poll?

Yes; sometimes I saw him, and sometimes I did not.

But was not that the purpose for which he was there?

Yes.

You know that they went two at a time to vote?

Yes; they did poll two and two.

And Mr. Bird's going backwards and forwards was to take up his voters, when it was his turn to poll?

Yes.

He used to come with the music?

Yes.

That was the way he was employed?

Yes.

And except during the time they were there waiting, there was nothing of the sort you described passing; it was locked up and nobody admitted?

Yes.

And after the poll closed, not a thing delivered of any description?

Yes.

I believe there was a man at the door, to prevent improper persons coming in?

Yes; to let no body in but voters.

In point of fact, did these persons ever pay for what they had?

No.

Did any of them?

No.

Did they come in merely in consequence of bad weather, or for other reasons?

They must have come in for eating and drinking; it could not be for bad weather, for the weather was very fine.

Members. You say your husband was in gaol during the time?

Yes.

What house is it you keep, it is not a public house is it?

No.

When did you first know that the house was to be open for Mr. Bird's friends?

On the Saturday before the Monday; and Mr. Twist sent word to Mr. Bird's committee?

How do you know that such a message was sent; how did you hear of it?

My husband told me he had sent such a message.

Did any body come to your house to direct that it should be opened?

There was a young man came from one of Mr. Bird's friends, who sent him I don't know.

You say, you saw Mr. Bird there every day during the poll?

Yes; nearly every day; sometimes once, sometimes twice or three times.

When he came to the house, did he say any thing, or did he merely come to the door?

He went up stairs, but never continued above five minutes at a time.

What was doing up stairs?

The Freemen were there getting refreshment.

Is young Mr. Moore the son of Mr. Moore?

Yes.

You have told us nothing was paid for this refreshment?

Yes.

Have you ever been paid for your trouble?

No.

By whose order was Arnold stationed there to take care of the provisions?

I do not know.

Did you know Arnold before this time?

Yes.

You was living in the house?

Yes.

Then how came he to come and lock up the place?

I do not know.

You say there were some joints of meat sent in; was meat sent in every day?

Yes.

What quantity?

The first day four legs of mutton and four shoulders; at an average of that every day.

Was that quantity consumed every day?

Yes.

What quantity of liquor was sent in?

I cannot speak to that.

Can you at all speak to any quantity that was sent in?

I cannot.

Was there a barrel sent in?

No; it came in in bottles.

How did the beer come in?

In barrels.

How many barrels were sent in?

I cannot say how many barrels, between ale and porter there might be five or six barrels sent in.

Was young Mr. Moore there every day?

Yes, I believe he was.

You had no conversation yourself with Mr. Bird respecting the provisions?

No, I had no conversation with Mr. Bird at all.

Did you know any of the voters who frequented your house personally?

Yes, I knew several of them.

Were they town's people or strangers?

Some were town's people, and some were strangers.

Were you ever in the room when they were eating and drinking?

Yes.

Did you see the town's people eating and drinking in the same manner as the strangers?

Yes.

Do you expect to be paid for the use of your house?

Yes—I did expect something, but I have not been paid any thing yet.

You hired a cook to dress the provisions; do you know of your knowledge who paid the cook?

I paid her.

How much?

I paid her seven shillings; she was there seven days.

You say Arnold had some conversation with Mr. Bird the last day of the poll, when the poll was closed?

Yes, Arnold brought a message down stairs that Mr. Bird had stopped it.

Then in point of fact, Arnold did on the last day, as he had done every other day, at the end of the poll he locked up every thing?

Yes.

If a man was going to poll that morning he was brought to your house to stay till there was an opportunity for him to vote?

Yes; and when they were wanted they were called.

That was the purpose to which your house was applied, to keep voters in till they were brought up to poll?

It could not be only for the use of that.

Why not?

Because there were a great many came backwards and forwards after they did poll.

Do you know if they came backwards and forwards before they polled?

Yes; I saw them go in and out before they polled, and come in after they had polled.

Did any of the townsfolks come before they had polled?

Yes.

How do you know that?

I saw most of them go out to poll; and I have heard them say when they came in that they had polled.

And those persons had been in the house several times before they did poll?

Yes, waiting there to be polled; that was one purpose.

You prepared no regular dinner?

No; what they had to eat was cold.

You mean to say, that to your knowledge the voters had a right to come any day during that week backwards and forwards?

Yes.

Withdrew.

WILLIAM BICKNELL CLARKE, *called in and sworn.*

Your usual residence is in London, I believe?

Yes.

Were you at Dunchurch at any time previous to the election, or during the election?

I was.

Was you at Mr. Shaw's house?

Yes; I was there during the whole election.

You lodged at Mr. Shaw's house?

Yes.

Did you see Samuel Tipson there?

I did.

Do you recollect any thing that passed at that time, respecting Shaw's vote?

Yes; there were several gentlemen soliciting Shaw for his vote, on both sides.

Do you remember Mr. Tipson coming?

I do.

Confine yourself to what passed at that time?

Mr. Tipson came a day or two previous to the closing of the election; and Mr. Tipson solicited Mr. Shaw for his vote, on behalf of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore; but Mr. Shaw had previously declared, he would not go on behalf of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, or on behalf of Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, unless he was paid as a London vote.—He did not care which, he would go for either.

Did he tell Tipson for what sum he would go?

He said he would go for ten pounds, or ten guineas; I cannot say which.

What did Mr. Tipson say to that?

Mr. Tipson did not exactly agree to pay it to him.—He did not wish it to be paid to himself, that nothing might be heard of it afterwards, but to some of his family; this he said himself.—Mr. Shaw said there was some hops he owed Mr. Drayson for.

Who is Mr. Drayson?

He keeps the Star nearly facing Mr. Shaw; they proposed that I should go to Mr. Drayson's house, and see the hops paid for, which came to about seven pounds, or thereabouts; and there was some hay and things of that sort.—They were to be taken out of the book, and the rest of the money was to be paid to Mrs. Burbridge.

The rest of what?

The remainder of the ten pounds.

Who is Mrs. Burbridge?

Mr. Shaw's daughter.

Did you go over to Mr. Drayson's in consequence of this?

I did, I went over; I understood it was considered between Tipson, Drayson, and another gentleman.

By whose desire did you go over?

By Mr. Shaw's desire.—The book was open there, and I believe it was crossed through; and it was understood between me and Mr. Drayson that Shaw was no longer indebted to him for hops, and then we came away, and he was to go and vote.—I went over to Shaw's house, and told him it was all settled.

Who was present?

Mr. Shaw, and I think Mr. Tipson; but I will not be positive.

Was Mrs. Burbridge present?

I cannot recollect whether she was or not; but it was very well understood between Tipson and Shaw, that the hops had been paid for. I told Shaw the books were cleared of the debt.

Did any thing pass about the rest of the money?

I understood from Mr. Shaw, and

Shaw's daughter, that they were to have the remainder of the money.—Mrs. Burbridge wished him to vote for Barlow and Jefferys, and he meant, I believe, to have done so.

When did he in fact go to Coventry?

I think this was on the Friday, and I think on the Saturday morning Mr. Shaw requested I would go down to Coventry with him.—I will not be positive whether this business was not settled on the same morning that he went to Coventry to poll.

Did you go with him?

I did; I saw him vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Cross-examined.—So you happened to be at Dunchurch, did you?

Yes.

During the whole election?

Yes.

Then have the goodness to tell the committee who you are, and what is your way of life?

I was brought up to the profession of the law.

I ask you how you get your living?

I am at Dunchurch to prosecute people under the Post Horse Act, and under the Act of Parliament for collecting in the King's Duty upon Horses let out by unlicensed persons, dealers in horses, not licensed.—I went out with a gentleman who had an authority from the Treasury.

I ask you how you get your living?

They pay me for making out Summons and Informations against persons who defraud the revenue.

Are you not a common Informer?

Certainly I have laid a great number of informations.

Was you at Warwick at any time?

Yes.

In the course of your business?

I never did any business there at all.

Was you not concerned in any thing at all?

No.

Who was with you there?

There were several other people.

Can you recollect their names?

Yes; Mr. Marsden, a Mr. Crossly, and a Mr. Fellows.

What connection have you with Mr. Shaw?

None at all; I am quite independent of Mr. Shaw; he keeps an inn, and I only came there, and put up at the time we did business round the country there; and the reason I was there was, government thought I was a fit person to send down; these are mere nominal things.

Was you employed by government or the farmers of the Post Horse Duty?

By the farmers.

That you call the government?

It is the same thing.—I knew nothing of the offences being committed, they were collected for me and brought to me.

You was at Shaw's, at the inn?

Yes.

Were you and him old acquaintance?

No; I never saw the man before in my life!

Mr. Tipson was there at the time?

He was.

Mr. Tipson was present at the conversation you have stated?

He was present at the first part of it.

Tell me any fact at which a third person was present?

Mr. Tipson was present with Shaw and me,

when they proposed going over to Drayson's, and the money was to be crossed out of the book.

Tell me any thing that passed in the hearing of another person?

Mr. Shaw desired me to go over with Mr. Tipson to Mr. Drayson, to see that it was crossed out.

That was the first thing?

No; Mr. Tipson first proposed his voting for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, and then Mr. Shaw said if he would give him ten guineas he would. He understood that was what the London voters had.

Neither more or less?

Ten guineas, or ten pounds, I am not clear which; then Mr. Tipson and Mr. Shaw both proposed that the money should not be paid in the house, because it might turn out there might be a scrutiny.

When Mr. Tipson agreed to give it him, nobody was present but you and Mr. Tipson and Shaw?

Yes.

He agreed to that, but did not pay the money in the house?

He said the best way would be to go over to Mr. Drayson's, for he owed him some money for some hops.

When was that said?

Shaw, in reply to Mr. Tipson saying not to pay it in the house said, I owe Mr. Drayson as much money for hops and other things as seven pounds odd.

Seven pounds odd, was it?

Yes.—I owe Drayson seven pounds odd for hops, and I think hay, and straw; then Shaw said to Mr. Clarke "if you would have th

goodness to go over and see that this is crossed out of the book.—I do not know whether he told me to bring a receipt or not, but however I was to go and understand from Mr. Drayson that he was satisfied with the debt, and it was to be crossed out, and that the remainder of the money he said would come round in the family.—It would not be paid to him, but in the end he would have it, and a chaise was to be provided; it was to be a job for the day, and that should be paid also.

How came Drayson to be a party for this.—How came you to think Drayson would give you a receipt for it without the money; you did not know Drayson?

Yes; I knew him very well.

In former conversations you understood that he owed this seven pounds odd?

Yes.

How came you to suppose Drayson would give you a receipt for any purpose you should state to him?

There was a Mr. Hame, who was very much attached to the Blue interest; he was very intimate with Mr. Drayson, and Mr. Drayson was also attached to the Blue interest.—The carriage used to go their house.—I know very well that Mr. Tipson went over to acquaint Mr. Drayson to settle this business previous to my going over.—All I was to do, was to see that it was crossed out.

Then Mr. Tipson went over to settle it?

Yes.

Then you made a trifling mistake; before you said you went over to settle it?

No; it was settled between Mr. Tipson and Mr. Drayson.—Mr. Drayson said I shall take this out of the book Mr. Clarke, and I dare

say it will be all right, or words to that effect. I conceived Drayson knew the whole of the business.

Mr. Clarke, Drayson said to you, I will strike this out of the book, and it is all right?

Yes.

Did you see it scratched out?

Yes.

In what way was it scratched out?

Two cross lines in the common way.

You brought a receipt, did you not?

No; I was a witness that he was satisfied.—I dare say Mr. Shaw would not have sent me if he had not thought me competent to the business, and be satisfied with what I did.—There was nothing about a receipt mentioned till I came back.—He asked me if I had got a receipt, I said no, it is all right, Mr. Drayson has agreed not to call upon you for it.

The two pounds odd the remainder, was to come round in the family?

Yes.

What do you mean by coming round in the family?

It was not to be paid to Mr. Shaw, but to Mrs. Burbridge, or the gentleman, or the children, or Mrs. Shaw; and then he could say he had not received it.

And do you really mean to tell me you was silly enough suppose it would have any effect?

Mrs. Burbridge lent the money to Mr. Tipson to pay it, because he had not got the ten pounds about him.

Who did he pay it to?

To Mrs Burbridge I believe.

Did you see that?

I think I did see it in her hand; and I am

almost sure she came into the kitchen and said I have got the residue of the money.

Mrs. Burbridge lent the money to pay who?

To pay herself or Mr. Shaw; I am very well satisfied that the debt due to Drayson was not then paid.

Though you had been over and settled it, they afterwards came back to settle the remainder?

Yes.

Had you, when the money was lent by Mrs. Burbidge to Mr. Tipson, to pay Mr. Shaw, had you, or had you not, been over to Mr. Drayson?

I had.

What did you do at Drayson's?

The book was open, I was called into the bar, and Mr. Drayson crossed it out.

What did he cross out?

A debt of seven pound odd.

Then you returned afterwards; and then the remainder was to be paid?

Then the remainder was to be paid.

But you say the whole ten pound was to be paid; the reason assigned was, because he had not so much as ten pound; is that so?

Ten pound was not wanted then; when Mr. Tipson came to Shaw, he told him, I will give you ten pound if you will go and vote for us. Shaw says, I will not receive money myself; if you will go over and settle with Drayson, and pay the remainder to my family: when we had been over to Drayson and settled that, we came back, and Mrs. Burbridge paid the remainder to Tipson.

The seven pound odd, you have settled with Drayson?

Yes.

You came back and told Tipson you had settled it?

No; I told Mr. Shaw I had settled it; Mr. Tipson, I believe, was in the house at that time.

When Mr. Tipson was in the house, you told Mr. Shaw the seven pound odd was settled?

Yes.

Then Mr. Tipson must have known he wanted only two pounds odd?

Yes.

Then why was he to borrow because he had not ten pound?

I rather think he had no money at all, for I have understood since that Mr. Hume paid Drayson for the hops.

Then upon your credit only, Drayson crossed it out of his book?

Yes; I understood they had settled the mode of proceeding, before I went over.

Therefore, in fact, you only went over to put an end to that which you thought was already settled and understood?

Yes.

You say that Mrs. Burbridge shewed you the two pound odd, in her hand?

I am perfectly confident she did: I will not swear to it. I am perfectly independent of the transactions connected with the election; I did it merely to oblige my friend.

You are sure Mrs. Burbridge lent the money?

She told me so.

You saw the money in her hand?

I have no doubt of it: I do believe she came into the kitchen, and shewed me the money.

It was the money that was afterwards paid back to her?

Yes.

Did she shew it you before or after, she received it back?

She told me she lent it, for the purpose of deceiving her father; they went into the back parlour to manufacture that.

You was not admitted there?

I was not asked to go in.

Then you do not know any one of those circumstances; but what she told you after the seven pound odd was transacted?

No; only from what has happened.

Did she give you any reason for her lending money to pay herself?

Yes; She said Mr. Tipson had not money, and therefore she was to lend it to Mr. Tipson, and at Coventry he would pay her again; he paid it back to her in the father's presence.

What was the reason Shaw was to be such a cypher in all this?

He said he would not go till the money was bona fide paid.

Why did not Mr. Shaw take the money?

He thought he could not vote with propriety then.

He would have taken a receipt, if he had got it; but he would not have received the money, because it was not proper?

Yes.

Members. Did you see Mr. Shaw after the election?

I went to Coventry with him, to the election.

Did he ever complain to you afterwards that Drayson had not scratched it out?

No; on the contrary, I was at Shaws some time after, and Mr. Drayson said, Shaw, there is a little hay owing, and I said, did not you

understand every thing was scratched out of the book at the election, respecting the hops, and every thing else; and I said yes, certainly, I saw it scratched out myself. I will not swear to it, but I think I saw him scratch it out; I do not swear absolutely that it was so, but I do verily believe that the pen was drawn across the book.

Who was Mr. Tipson?

An agent; one of the gentlemen that were collecting votes at the election, he used to ride backwards and forwards.

Did you see him collecting votes during the election.

Yes; he brought a great number to Mr. Shaw's: he was there backwards and forwards almost every day, and so did the other party.

And Mr. Tipson was active in bringing votes for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

What stile of life is he in, an attorney?

No; he keeps a shoemakers shop, I understand at Coventry.

You frequently saw him bringing voters to Mr. Shaw's.

Yes; he was a very active zealous man, and a very good kind of man.

You used the term agent just now?

I thought so from his collecting votes, and transacting this business with Mr. Shaw; I thought none but an agent would have so contracted.

Respecting the money borrowed by Mrs. Burbridge, was that money ever paid back again?

On the day the summonses were served, on the Saturday, about the thirteenth or four-

teenth of February, I was at Dunchurch again, and Mr. Tipson was sent for from Coventry, by Shaw, and he came up, and he came into the back parlour where Mrs. Shaw and I, and Mrs. Burbridge were at tea; I went out, I was sent for, and called into the parlour, and Mrs. Burbridge and Mr. Shaw said, observe, this here is so much money that Mrs. Burbridge borrowed of Mr. Tipson, and now I will pay it him back again, for I understand, from Mrs. Burbridge, that he did not give Mr. Shaw this money, he only lent it her: Mr. Shaw said, observe this.

Which of them told you to observe his, was it Tipson or Burbridge?

It was Mr. Shaw.

To observe what?

To observe that Mrs. Burbridge paid back this money to Mr. Tipson.

Had she borrowed any money of Mr. Tipson?

She had at that time.

Then it is not true that Mr. Tipson borrowed any of her?

Yes it is; it was two pounds seventeen shillings, it was paid first from Tipson to Burbridge, backwards and forwards, I believe three times.

Who borrowed it first?

Mrs. Burbridge paid it to Mr. Tipson first, in order that he may pay it back to her before her father; and then she acquainted her father when this came out, about the summonses, she had lent so much money to Mr. Tipson that it might be said he did not receive any money at all.

First she lent the money to Mr. Tipson, that Mr. Tipson might pay her in the presence of her father, and having been repaid that money, she said she had lent it to Tipson?

She told her father so.

So that she had not the money at at last?

Mr. Tipson had the money at last; I do not know whether he ever paid her back again. I understood from Mrs. Burbridge, that she lent it to Mr. Tipson originally.

Mr. Tipson and Mr. Hume, you say, had settled this hop account with Drayson?

I understood so, from Mr. Shaw.

How came you to be sent to see it crossed?

Because Mr. Shaw would not trust either Mr. Tipson or Mr. Hume.

He chose you in preference to them?

Yes.

Did he desire you to bring a receipt?

No; he asked me for one, when I came back.

Then perhaps you knew that this was bribery?

I conceived so.

And with a full knowledge that this was bribery, you chose to make yourself an agent upon this occasion?

I certainly did; but I conceived myself not at all implicated it it.

And you, with a knowledge of its being bribery, went as a witness to see this debt crossed off?

Certainly.

Withdrew.

Thursday March 3d, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

William Clayton, called in and sworn.

Where do you live?

At Coventry?

Do you keep a public house?

Yes; the sign of the Wind-Mill, in Spon-Street.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Who did you vote for?

For Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

During the last election had you any of the freemen frequently in your house?

Yes; there were a few came to my house, and out-voters as well; and a few of my neighbours.

By your neighbours, you mean residents of Coventry?

Yes.

Were they freemen voters of Coventry?

Chiefly freemen; there might be some few who were not.

And any of their friends that were not voters?

Yes; some neighbours who lived by the outer part of the town.

Did they use to eat and drink there?

A little now and then of an evening, after they had spent their day at the poll booth.

What number do you think?

No great many.

Guess within five or ten?

They varied, I cannot tell.

Can't you guess within ten or twenty?

Twenty exceeded; I think there were not quite so many as twenty at one time.

Did the same persons use to come every day?

I believe they were nearly the same.

Are you not sure?

It might vary, some might come one evening and some might stop away.

They might change as convenience suited?

Yes

Did they sup there?

No never.

And what sort of refreshment did they use to have?

A little beer I gave them.

Any thing else?

I believe once or twice, they might have some bread and cheese, but I never cooked any thing hot for them.

Do you mean that was all they had?

They might have a little cold meat at some time or other.

At your house?

Yes.

Do you know whether they had or not?

Not for a constancy.

Do you mean that they did every night some of them?

No, not every night.

I ask whether on every night of the election, some of the voters were not at your house?

I believe they were.

Do you know whether they were there, did you see them?

Yes; more or less every night.

Did those who were generally there, (I do not mean every man) generally eat and drink at your house?

Yes they did.

Was what they eat confined to bread and cheese?

They had some cold meat, but not every night, nor to make any kind of feast for them.

Did you or not, prepare meat for them?

What was cooked for the family at dinner, they had at night.

I ask you whether there was not some cooked for these persons that would not have been cooked but for them?

There certainly was more than we wanted for ourselves.

Did they who so eat and drank, pay for what they had?

They did not.

Did they pay for any part?

No.

On what account did you furnish them with it?

I never had any order for it by any man living.

I ask you on whose account did you furnish them?

On my own.

On your own account only, I am to understand?

On my own account only.

You had no orders for it?

I had none.

Had you any intimation given to you, to induce you to do it?

No.

No intimation from any one person living; had you any conversation with any person, at any time, that induced you to give away these articles?

No.

You swear you had not any conversation with any one upon that subject?

No; no order to give any thing.

I ask you whether you did not understand from somebody that you ought to do it, or should do it, or any thing else to induce you?

No; no further than my good wishes to the cause I had engaged in, and because I had been very ill used.

What cause was it that carried you this length?

I saw my poor neighbours in Mr. Bird's interest come home, regularly drunk every day.

What cause was you engaged in?

I meant to give my vote.

What cause was it that made you give away your property?

It was my own free choice.

You said you was a friend to the cause, what cause do you mean?

The success of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Do you know Mr. Barlow?

I never saw him but once.

When was that?

At the poll booth.

Before you saw Mr. Barlow, had you given away any of the meat and drink?

Yes, I had; but I did not go up to vote till the seventh or eighth, I believe.

Then you did not see Mr. Barlow till the seventh or eighth day of the poll, and yet before the poll began you gave away your property to support his cause?

No, not before the election was; it was the first day of the poll.

Who was to pay you?

That I don't know; nobody ever ordered any thing.

I did not ask you if you had a demand upon any body?

I had not.

Who do you expect is to pay you?

I do not expect any one; It was but trifling what I did.

How much was the amount, you kept an account of it, I suppose?

I suppose, if I had been to be paid all, I don't think it amounted to 20l. or a little above that; a part of that was to the out-voters.

Did you keep no account of what you gave away?

Yes; there was an account kept, I believe.

Who kept it?

Chiefly a son of mine.

Is he in town?

No.

Did he keep it by your orders?

Yes.

Was it ever cast up, and known how much it amounted to?

I believe it might.

I ask whether it was, upon your oath?

Yes it was cast up I believe.

I ask you, upon your oath, what amount that was?

I think it was something under 30l. between 20l and 30l.

When was there ever a bill made out, further than the account kept upon any doors and slates: was there any entry upon a paper?

Yes, I believe it was put down upon a paper at last.

What became of that paper?

It is at home.

Was it ever carried any where out of your house?

It never was.

Was it ever offered to any body in your house?

No.

Who has ever seen that paper, besides yourself and your son?

I do not know that any body has.

Will you take upon yourself to swear that nobody has never been to look at that paper?

No one to call it in, as to be paid.

I ask you a plain question; I ask you upon your oath, has nobody called since that paper was made out, to look at it?

Yes.

Who?

Mr. Vale.

Is that the present Sheriff, Mr. Samuel Vale; do you mean the partner of Alderman Howlette?

Yes; but he was not sheriff then.

Was any body with him when he called?

No one at all.

Has any body besides been to look at it?

No one.

Has any body been enquiring about it?

No.

Recollect what passed the day that he called, between you and him?

[The question objected to.]

The committee deliberate, whether the conversation, between William Clayton and Samuel Vale, can be admitted as evidence.

Determined, that conversation between the witness and Samuel Vale, cannot be admitted.

Mr. Vale is the present Sheriff?

He is now, he was not at the election.

When he called for this bill, did you give it him?

Yes, I did.

What did he do with i ?

I believe he took it away with him in his hand.

When he took it away, what did he say?

I do not recollect that he said any thing.

Why did he take it away?

I cannot tell.

Upon your oath, do you not know why he took it away?

I cannot tell what his reasons were.

What did you say to him?

It was on the Monday after the election was finished.

What did you say to him when you gave him the bill?

He looked at it, and I think tore my name off it, and took it away.

Where was your name written on the bill?

At the top.

What other name was written to it?

No other.

Who did you expect was to pay you that bill?

I did not know that any one did.

I ask you, as you have taken your oath before God, who did you expect would pay that bill, when Mr. Vale took it away?

I did not know from that hour to this?

Qestion repeated.

I could not form any expectation, he came and asked me for the account during the election.

By he, you mean, Mr. Vale, I suppose?

Yes.

When he took the bill away from which you had made out, and torn off your name, did you not expect to be paid by somebody?

I did not know who to look to.

I don't ask whether there was any person that you had a right to demand it of; I ask you what was the expectation of your own mind?

I know no further than this, Mr. Vale came and asked me for the bill, and I gave it him.

Nothing at all passed, whether it would be paid or not. Was the bill ordered before you made it out?

No.

How came you to make it out so soon?

Because the election was over.

Who did you expect to come for the bill?

I did not expect any one.

Did you make it out, and expect n one to come for it?

I did expect it.

When you made out the bill so soon after the election, what did you suppose was to be done with that bill?

I kept it in my own possession till Mr. Vale came and asked me for it, and I gave it him.

Had you seen Mr. Vale during the election before?

I had not.

Do you happen to know who managed that ward?

There were no proper managers.

Who came backwards and forwards, and looked after the voters?

No gentleman of any kind came near my house, during the election.

Nor before it?

No; except the two first treats before the election; I had orders for them.

When were they?

I think one was the Monday, or the Monday se'nnight after Easter, a long time before the election; the second was the Monday night following.

Who ordered those treats?

One was ordered by the drapers company and the other by the corporate body; I had an offer first from Mr. Bird's people, but as I meant to give my vote the other way, I did not like it; there were a great many who were forward to put down their names, and then turn tail afterwards.

Did those who attended the treat given by the drapers company, attend the one given by the body corporate?

I cannot say.

Who paid you the bill from the drapers company?

It was paid by Messrs. Little and Woodcock.

Mr. Woodcock was the master of the drapers company?

I do not know that he might not.

Who paid the bill for the body corporate?

Alderman Howlett paid me that.

That is the partner to Mr. Vale?

Yes; they carry on business together.

Did you expect to be paid by either of the same parties, that had given the treats for this election?

I did not; I had no one to look up to for the money at all.

You did not expect to be paid by them?

No, I could not; nobody came near me during the election.

Do you expect to be paid by what you call the corporation?

No, I could not expect it.

Now I ask you this; if there had not been a petition against this election, should you not have expected to have had your bill paid before this time?

I don't know that I should, without other people had.

I ask you whether you should not have expected that you and other people would have had their bills paid, if there had not been a petitioner?

Yes; I suppose it would have been paid.

But still, notwithstanding that was your expectation, you are as much in the dark as ever about who is to pay you?

I am, indeed.

Do you know that treats were given on the part of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, of your own knowledge?

They did, they began first.

During the days of polling, you was surrounded by the friends of Mr. Bird and the friends of Mr. Barlow?

Yes; I live in a poor quarter of the town, they are all very poor.

You saw a great many persons that you knew, to be Mr. Bird's friends?

Yes.

In the evenings how did you see them, with respect to sobriety?

They came home frequently disguised in liquor.

Drunkenness appeared to prevail at your end of the town very much?

Yes.

What was done at your house, were expences allowed to the out-voters?

Yes.

You had neighbours and friends who voted?

Yes.

Being voters you allowed them to have a little liquor, and also meat?

Yes.

Upon your oath, did you do that with any person connected with Mr. Barlow?

I did not.

Did you receive direction or approbation from any person connected with Mr. Barlow?

I did not.

Did you do what you did of your own free-will, unlimited by any thing; by any thing but your will?

I did; and I thought I was justified in so doing, I thought myself very ill used.

Did you feel yourself justified from your own personal situation, without any communication from any body else?

I did.

From your own judgment entirely?

Intirely; I never saw Mr. Barlow till I went to vote.

Did any person, on behalf of Mr. Barlow, come to your house, to see what was going forward?

No, no more than the poor freemen; no man above my station, came near my house, durwhole of the election.

You say nobody came connected with Mr. Barlow; did nobody come who were well wishers to Mr. Barlow?

Yes; they were well wishers, and nobody came to give orders connected with Mr. Barlow.

Do you know who is connected with Mr. Barlow, and who is not connected with Mr. Barlow?

I understood them to be freemen; they did not give any orders at all.

They came to your house and eat and drank, and had what they liked?

Yes.

What is that but an order?

No previous order to open the house.

Members.—When Mr. Vale came and asked you for the election account, was you surprised?

I did not expect his coming.

Were you surprised when Mr. Vale came and asked for his bill?

Yes; because I did not expect him; I was surprised.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

Samuel Barton, called in and sworn.

Where do you live?

In Coventry.

What house do you keep?

The Salutation, at the entrance into Coventry.

Are you one of the Council?

Yes.

Did the voters at the last election frequent your house?

Yes.

In what numbers might they come?

Some days twenty perhaps, and some days ten or a dozen, just as they come in.

They were out-voters?

Yes.

All?

Yes.

No residents?

No; except they came to meet any of their friends.

Did the resident voters come to meet their friends there?

Yes, frequently.

Did they come to see their friends?

Yes; most of them had a friend, they wished to see.

Did they eat and drink there?

Yes; they frequently got some refreshment when they came in.

All of them?

All that called for it.

What refreshment did you give them?

Sometimes bread and cheese, and a glass of liquor; some that stopped at the house had regular meals, the same as our own family.

Who were those persons?

Such as had no friends wished to be accommodated at my house.

Did the resident voters dine or sup with them at your house?

Not that I recollect; they were mostly out-voters that were at my house.

You was rather active, I understand, during the election?

I was.

Was you employed to get votes?

I was not employed.

Did you use to get out in the country and get votes in?

Yes.

What authority had you to do it?

It was out of respect to the party I wished to serve.

Which party?

The friends of the corporation whoever they might bring.

Did you go much about to any distance?

Yes.

How far distant might you go?

Two hundred miles perhaps; I do not exactly know the distance, I went as far as I could go, without going over the water at several places; in fact, I went on the water.

In different directions?

Yes.

And you brought them to your house?

Yes.

It cost you a good deal of money then?

Yes; it is very expensive travelling, be as frugal as you will.

Especially with voters?

I cannot say that I saw any extravagance.

Was you tolerably successful; how many might you bring in?

A hundred perhaps in the whole.

All brought home to your house?

Yes.

What did you do with them?

They generally used to go and poll, and then go where they pleased, two or three days after they polled.

Did they continue at your house during that time?

Sometimes; those that had no lodgings had access to come when they pleased.

I suppose you was reimbursed your expences?

I never saw a farthing; I wish I had.

How happened it then; you might as well have been a candidate yourself.—Have you never been paid any thing for it?

No.

Have you never made any demand?

Never.

Not your necessary expences?

No; I never demanded a single farthing.

You never demanded it of any body?

No.

Did any body apply to you to make you amends for it?

No.

Nobody applied to you to go?

No.

No conversation with any body?

Never.

Perhaps nobody knew that you was so employed?

Yes; I had been concerned for going out for voters two or three elections, and I knew where voters lay, and I went down to fetch them.

You had been concerned in two or three elections before?

Yes; in fetching voters.

Did you always do it in this disinterested way?

Yes; I did it at the last election.

And went out as far and was never paid?

Yes; but I was not till a considerable time after the election.

Who paid you the last?

Mr. Bird's principal agent, I believe.

You was on the other side then?

Yes.

This time they did not pay so soon?

I did not know who to apply to.

Had you no conversation with any body that managed the election?

No, not concerning the payment of money, or any thing of that sort; I have talked with people.

Did you talk with any of the committee?

I don't know any body on the committee.

Had you no conversation with Mr. Inge upon that subject?

No; never.

Mr. Paine?

No.

You do not know how Mr. Payne was employed, or whether he had any thing to do?

I do not know.

None of the out-voters that you brought went to him?

Not that I know of.

Do you know Mr. Perkins?

Yes.

Had you any conversation with him?

No.

Do you know how he was engaged in this election?

I do not.

You had no communication with Mr. Payne whatever?

None.

What became of your voters when you had quite done with them?

I cannot tell.

Do not you know of your own knowledge who paid them to go back?

I do not know who paid them a shilling.

You have no reason to know from any of the parties who gave them money to go back, or who was employed in sending them back?

I do not know.

Your expences you are out of pocket; how is it as to what they eat and drank at your house?

I am in hopes of being paid; I mean to make a bill of it.

Where do you expect you shall be paid?

I mean to try the committee whoever they were.

You mean to apply to the committee?

I do.

Why did not you apply before?

I understood there were no bills paid of any kind, and the people did not know who to apply to; and I was in the same situation.

Do you know if this petition stood a little in the way of payment?

I don't know what the reason was; I never heard it as a reason.

If there had been no petition, would not you have applied before March 1803, for a bill contracted in 1802?

I dont think I should.—I should not have been one of the first that made a stir about it; out of respect to the corporation, I would have suffered some inconvenience sooner than I would have pressed for it.

And it is mere matter of accommodation to them?

Yes.

I ask you, do not you think you have a right to demand that money of some body?

Yes, certainly.

You mean of the committee; I don't mention any names?

Yes.

With that view you gave credit to those people; furnishing the out-voters and their friends?

Yes, perhaps there are many pounds I never shall have.

Has any thing passed about your bill since?

There has not.—I have never made a single application to any body.

What is the amount of your demand?

I should suppose between two or three hundred pounds.

Is it not more than that?

I do not exactly know.

Recollect as near as you can;—turn it in your mind?

I think it is some where near three hundred pounds.

That is the sum you think you have a right to demand in the way you have described?

I think I have expended nearly that.

Have you for your own accommodation borrowed any money?

Yes, I have rather over drawn; I had money in the bank, and I had occasion for more than it really was, and I have over drawn.

What bank?

Troughton, Lucadou, and Co. in Lombard Street.

Has any body applied to you for your bill, asking you what demand you had; had any of the corporation been to inquire?

Not that I know of; I do not recollect any person; a number of Mr. Bird's friends have been laughing at me, and saying "they owe you three hundred pounds."

Your books have been pretty closely examined.—I believe your banker's books by the other party?

I have heard that Mr. Woodcock's were examined.

Have you any banker at Coventry?

I am not in the habit of keeping a bank account, but it happened I had some money which was paid into the hands of Troughton, and it was remitted to Coventry; that was the reason it lay in the bank.

Has not that transaction which brought your concern to Coventry, caused an inspection of your books?

I have no doubt they made enquiry, because unless they had enquired they could not have told what money there was.

You are an experienced canvasser?

Yes.

You have acted under a great master, Mr. Bird.

I cannot say.

However you canvassed for him at the former election?

Yes.

It was from your own personal zeal in the cause that led you to incur the expence and fatigue?

Yes; I heard how distressed they were, and without communicating my intention to any body, I took a chaise, and brought them down; some of them without shoes and stockings, to vote for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Part of this expence was incurred in carriages for bringing those people, and refreshment?

Yes.

Was that refreshment moderate?

They lived no better than my own servants do, nor were more extravagant, setting aside, that they might have drank a glass of brandy and water, or a tankard of ale more.

The expence you have been at of three hundred pounds, was that compounded of necessary travelling expences and refreshment at your house?

Yes.

Those who came to your house that were resident did come merely to see their friends?

I often used to make them pay for it; if I saw a poor fellow that came to see a poor friend, then I gave it him.

Then I ask you distinctly, and upon your oath, did you apply any of the liquor or provisions, or entertainment, upon which your bill is founded, to the use of any resident Freemen to induce their vote?

I did not.—I may have seen some of them eat with them; and for fear of offending the voters I had brought in, I did not say any thing, or else I should not have let all sorts of persons come and eat at my house. The London voters were the principal that were at my house.

How many resident freemen do you suppose came to your house to see their friends?

I was so much out I cannot say, but when I was at home I used to keep the room as clear as I could, except the London Freemen.

In any part of the transaction did you receive orders from any one person in Coventry?

No.

Did you receive from Capt. Barlow any directions or approbation for what you had done?

Never.

Did you ever send to him for directions?

Never; I never spoke to him, I do not know that I had any conversation with him at all.

I believe you were rather unlucky, you was a little too late; how many voters did you bring in after the election was over?

I believe there was four or five picked up in London, and some at Warwick.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Mason about whether Mr. Jefferys could or not come into Coventry?

I remember Mr. Mason, myself, and another person being together, Mr. Mason said, "well Barton, when will Jefferys come?" I said he will be here soon enough; it was just before the commencement of the poll; "aye," says he, "he will not come by the Salutation."

Meaning your house?

Yes.—I said why, "what is the reason?" and he said, he will shew them that great house, that is the house of industry, which is a building just before they come to my house.

What they call the bastile?

Yes.—We had no more conversation about it than that.

Are you sure Mr. Mason said that?

Yes, he said he would lay me twenty guineas that he would not come by the Salutation.

I ask you that, because Mr. Mason has sworn he never said any such thing, and I ask you upon your oath, whether he laid you a bett that Mr. Jefferys would not pass the Salutation?

He did say so.

Do you know William Jones who came from Leicester?

I recollect a person, I don't know his name that was brought to me from Leicester.

Was you at Mr. Goode's house?

No, he came to my house.

Have you seen the man since?

Yes.

Has he been examined as a witness here?

Yes.

And that man was brought to you?

Yes.

Did any thing else pass between you and him relative to the four pounds charity?

The man that brought him to me, Ayscough, asked me if I could get him such a thing, he said his family was left unprovided for at Leicester; and if he could get that, then he would certainly serve, as he asked me whether I could get it for him. I told him it was not customary to give four pounds to persons not resident, then this man said, Mr. Goode's will do it; will you go with him to Mr. Goode's. I went with them, and Mr. Goode said he could not do it, that there was an order of the house not to give it to non resident Freemen, and he went away very much offended. Ayscough said, we shall lose his vote if you do not give him something.

Was that all that passed respecting the four pounds?

Yes.

Did you upon your oath, at any time, promise he should have the four pounds?

No; I told him he could hot have it; after I had refused him the charity, he asked me if I could not lend it him till the time came.—Ayscough, the man that brought him, asked me if I could not manage to get it for him somehow; for if I did not, we should certainly lose him; he was very much necessitated, and whoever gave it him, he was sure to poll for; he said, he will serve us directly; and I told him I could not.

Nor promise him?

No.

Nor Mr. Goode in your presence?

No, Mr. Gode told him with me, that he could not, and he went away much discontented; they went away and left me with Mr. Goode.

Then while you was there, no promise was made by Mr. Goode or you, that he should have the four pounds?

There was not.

Did you happen to see when Mr. Jefferys was coming, whether there was any opposition?

Yes; I watched the motions of the day, because I expected there would be something.

Describe what you saw?

I saw five or six hundred people, going with flags in a very tumultuous manner, saying they they would take him to that place, (the house of industry) and he should not come into Coventry. I believe they would have murdered him if he had come that way into Coventry.

You saw a great number of persons with flags coming towards the place they called the bastile, saying what you have described?

Yes; they were so violent they broke my windows, and cut my daughter across her bosom, and her hand, with the glass.

If I understand you, you met Mr. Mason and another gentleman, and you was joking about Mr. Jefferys coming in?

Yes, he was joking.—I did not understand him that he was serious; but I thought from what he said, the party meant to do it.

Jones is still in town?

I do not know.

There was some conversation about Jones having the four pounds.

Yes, there was a great number of Mr. Jefferys friends went out to meet him, but I did

not see them go out in a body. I suppose they went out for ten miles.—I saw them go on the road; it was reported that Mr. Jefferys would be in that morning, and I saw a great number of his friends going to meet him.

The Evidence of WILLIAM JONES, *from the Minutes.*

Members.

So far as his evidence related to what passed in your presence respecting the four pounds, is that a true evidence?

I declare he came with Ayscough, soliciting this four pounds; and I told him I could not.—Ayscough haunted me about for two or three hours afterwards, to do something for this fellow, or we should lose him; and I told him it was not in my power, and if it was, I could not give it to a person out of the town; he pressed Mr. Goode while I was in the room.—As to the twenty shillings, I never heard any thing about it, there might be some conversation, but I heard nothing of it; I have belonged to the house ten years, and never knew an instance of it being given to a person out of the town.

Then the description he gives, is not a true description?

It is not.

Is what he said true or false?

Entirely false; he came to make application to me to get it him.

I understand you have sworn a sum of money was paid from Troughton and Company, into the bank at Coventry?

Yes.

When was you first informed of it?

First from Mr. Thorne.

What was the reason of that money being paid from Troughton's house to the house in Coventry?

It was money I received, that came from Jamaica.

Do you mean to say, that that sum of money had nothing to do with the election?

No; Mr. Mason was my attorney in recovering that money for me from Jamaica.

During a considerable part of the polling, you was absent collecting votes?

Yes.

Who had the management of your house at that time?

My Wife.

Was there any direction left, that she was only to give liquors and provisions to out-lying voters?

I told her if a friend came, not to turn him out; but to confine what she gave to out-voters. Very often by offending a voter you lost him.

When did you first know a petition was to be presented against this election?

I cannot justly recollect when; it was in a few days after the election was over.—I cannot say exactly.

Do you know Shaw of Dunchurch?

Perfectly well; I was at his house a good deal during the election.

Did he at any time make any application to you on account of his vote?

He said, he would come with me at any time if I would buy him; he said, he would be bought; he said, if I would give him five guineas he would go with me; I told him I would not make him a promise of any thing, I had nothing to do with contracting what money men should have, if he would go with me I

would take him; but as to that, I did not know any thing about it.

He lives eleven miles from Coventry?

Yes.

When was it he asked you, if you would give him five guineas he would vote?

Five or six different times.—I saw him such a spunging fellow, taking every advantage, that I took the votes to another house; he made such exorbitant charges in his bill, that I left his house.

Are you positive that this man offered you more than once, that if you would give him five guineas he would poll for you?

Yes.

Was there any bill left unpaid at his house?

No, they were always paid; I believe there might be something left when I went down in a hurry.

The witness withdrew.

THOMAS PRICE, *called in and sworn.*

You live at Coventry?

Yes.

What house do you keep?

The Golden Horse.

During the last election, did the voters for Coventry frequent your house?

Some of my neighbours did.

The neighbours that lived thereabout?

Yes.

Can you guess how many used to come?

I cannot say; there were but a few in our neighbourhood.

Did those come that were neighbours chiefly?

Yes.

Did they come every day or only now and then?

Now and then they came in, and if they wanted a draught of ale I gave it them; there were more or less every day.

Can you guess at the number?

I should not suppose there were a dozen together at any one time.

Did they use to dine or sup there?

No; unless there was any cold meat in the house, or if there was no cold meat I gave them bread and cheese.

Only cold meat?

We have a family, and we cooked a joint of meat.

And you did not cook more meat than if there had not been an election?

I do not recollect that I did.

Did you or not cook more than usual?

I cannot recollect; I am a great deal out from home.

You pay the butches's bill I suppose?

No; I paid ready money.

You know whether you had more at that time than any other?

No, I cannot say; the servants might go out and get meat, and cook it.

Without your knowing it?

I do not keep money in my pocket; I collect the poor rates, and I keep it separate.

Your wife and servants might have sent for joints of meat, and you not know it?

There might have been a pound of steaks.

I do not mean any thing so trifling?

There were no joints more than for the family; what we had left out of the family dinner, we gave away.

Who did you give it to?

To our neighbours.

Were they voters?

Yes.

Did it continue all the election?

Sometimes there might be one or two, sometimes four or five; they never exceeded a dozen.

Did they use to pay for this?

No; I gave it them.

What induced you to give it them, did you use to give it them before the election?

I have given many a pint of ale away.

You used to do that before the election?

No; I do not say I did before the election.

You gave away cold meat, bread and cheese, and brandy and water, and rum and water?

There might be a glass. I keep but three sorts of liquors in the house, rum, brandy, and gin.

Did they partake of this?

I suppose they did.

Tell me whether they did or not;—do you know that they did?

I remember giving a glass or two of brandy and water away one day.

Do you mean upon your oath, to say you gave but two glasses of brandy and water?

I gave away but little; I cannot speak to the quantity, I cannot speak to every glass.

Did you ever refuse any of these voters what they called for?

Yes; I refused to give them liquor, I told them I would give them a pint or two of ale, and re used them liquors.

When was that, upon that occasion?

During the time of the election.

What made you refuse it?

Because I thought I could not afford it.

Then you meant to give it away from yourself entirely?

Yes.

Did you not expect to be paid or rewarded for it?

I never expected to be paid for it, I thought I might have amends made me.

Is it easy to you to give away victuals and drink, and treat voters during the election?

Yes.

Is it easy to your family?

Yes.

Did you ever do it before?

No; I have a young family coming up, and I was in hopes some gentlemen would do something for them.

Did you never make out a bill?

No.

Did you keep an account of what you parted with?

I ordered the servants to put it down in chalk.

Was it put down?

It is on the doors now, a great part of it.

Was it afterwards put down upon paper?

No.

What was the use of its being put upon the doors?

That I might know who I gave it to; I can make out a good many of them by the marks.

Of what use was that if you never expected be paid for it?

It was six out-voters that lodged with me that I made the marks about.

But those who were your neighbours you made no account of?

No.

What was the reason if you kept an account

of the out voters, that you did not keep an account for the resident voters?

The reason was, the out-voters I expected to be paid for.

And the home voters not?

No.

Who was to pay for the out-voters?

I don't know; I understood it was customary at former elections.

Who gave you the information that it was customary at former elections to do so?

Some of my brother publicans; I cannot say who.

Was it some of those you knew had bills?

No, I cannot recollect particularly.

Did you apply to any body to know how you should conduct yourself?

No.

Those who did it, did it without your enquiring?

Yes.

If they had not come to tell you so, you would have kept an account of the out-voters, and not the home voters?

I don't think I should, because the out-voters were strangers to me; some of them though they were brought in by my own neighbours and customers.

By customers you mean persons that had what they wanted at your house, and paid for it?

Yes; before this time.

Why did you not give to one as well as to the others, you knew some of the out-voters?

Any neighbour that had acquaintance came, I took him as far as I had room.

Who did you expect would pay for them;

did you expect your neighbours who brought the voters would pay?

I knew some of them were not in circumstances to pay.

Then if neighbours brought voters, and they were not in circumstances to pay, and you kept an account, in hopes somebody would pay; who did you expect to receive the money of?

I did not know who I was to receive it of.

Did you know when you was to receive it?

I did not.

You did not know where you was to apply for it?

I did not.

You had no conversation with any of the corporation about it?

No.

Has any body been with you about your account, since that time?

No, I have never been asked about it.

Do the chalks remain upon your doors now?

Yes; there is one cupboard door quite full of chalks now.

What may be the amount of your bill?

I never cast it up.

How much do you think?

There may be thirty or forty pound.

Don't you think it is more than that?

Not that part of the business.

How much is the whole?

What I gave away besides, may make it amount to about 60l. I never kept any secret.

How much of that is for the home voters?

There may be better than twenty pounds.

How do you make up your mind to that sum; about the home voters, how do you know it is more than 20l.?

Because I ordered the waiter to score it down, and at night I paid it off.

What did they score down; did they keep the two accounts separate, of the home and the out-voters?

Yes they did.

What do you mean by saying you kept no account about the home voters?

I kept no account.

You say you wiped it down; what am I to understand by that?

The waiter put down in chalk what there was and when I came home I wiped it off every night.

What became of the sum you wiped off?

I never put it down any where else, I kept it in my head.

Why did you have it kept an account of?

Because as I was out a great deal, I liked to know what I did give away.

And that was about 20l.?

Yes.

You meant from the first to give away to your neighbours, who lived in Coventry, and charge to those that did not live in Coventry?

Yes.

And you did not know how it was to be paid?

No.

Nor has any body applied for the bill?

No.

Do you know Mr. Woodcock?

Yes I do, perfectly well.

Did you see Mr. Woodcock during the election?

I saw him several times in the street.

Had you any conversation with him about the number that came to your house?

No.

Had you any conversation with him about the account?

No.

You have had no conversation with him about the account, whether you was to supply this or not?

No.

Was not Mr. Woodcock at your house during the election or just before; recollect yourself?

I don't recollect ever seeing him in my house, in my life.

Do you remember at the door having any conversation with him?

No.

Not at all?

Not respecting the accounts.

What conversation had you with him about the election?

It was on the Friday night, as the poll closed on the Saturday; I don't know that I ever spoke to him about it before.

What do you mean by it?

About the election. I told Mr. Woodcock I understood there were some out-voters coming in to vote the next morning for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, and it would be a good thing for somebody to go and meet them, and hurry them on.

Any thing else?

No, that was all.

Did you receive any orders from Mr. Woodcock, in consequence of that conversation?

No, I did not.

Did you expect Mr. Woodcock was to pay you, or see you paid.

No, I did not.

Was Mr. Goode in your house during the election?

I don't think he ever was.

Does he frequent your house at any time?

No.

Did you see him during the election?

I saw him backwards and forwards in the street, as I did other gentlemen.

Your account is about 60l. altogether?

Yes.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

William Watts called in and sworn.

You keep the Red Lion public house at Coventry?

Yes.

Did any voters frequent your house, during the last election?

Out-voters did; both out-voters and in-voters.

In what number at different times: is your house a large house?

Yes; it is a large house, but I have very little to do with it.

How many out-voters had you?

About a dozen or fourteen.

How many out-voters, and how many in?

There might be a dozen out-voters, and about twenty in-voters.

Do you mean that was the greatest number at one time?

There might be twenty-five, I cannot say.

Perhaps from twenty-five to forty?

Never forty, unless they were altogether, out-voters and in-voters.

Were there fifty?

Forty, I believe, there might be, but not more.

Of which twelve might be out-voters?

Yes.

Did they eat and drink at your house?

The out-voters did in general.

I was asking you respecting in-voters and out-voters, did they use to eat and drink at your house?

The in-voters did not; they might have a crust of bread and cheese, and a pint of ale now and then, but nothing more.

Then I am to understand you, that the in-voters, to the amount of twenty or twenty-five at a time, did not eat and drink?

I can't say that they did not eat and drink; they might have a crust of bread and cheese, and ale, but the out-voters had regular meals.

You are sure you are correct in that; the in-voters never had any thing more than bread and cheese, and ale?

I will not pretend to say, they might pick a bone, the remains of our own family dinner.

They might have some meat then?

Yes; there was some meat upon the bone, I suppose.

Do you understand the nature of the oath you have taken, that you are to tell the whole truth?

I do.

Had the in-voters bread, meat, cheese, ale, and spirituous liquors?

No, no spirituous liquors.

Had they the other articles I have enumerated?

Yes.

They had no spirituous liquors?

No, not at my cost; a number of gentlemen came and treated them with a glass of gin.

Had they brandy and water?

No.

Those that liked rum and water, did they have that?

No.

Those that liked gin and water, did they have it?

No.

Those that chose to drink drams did they have any?

No, not the town voters, the out-voters would have a little more indulgence, they had something better.

How long did you continue your house open?

My house was not open to the invoters, the town voters were not at my house perhaps above once in a week.

Then the town voters were not above once or twice, during the election, at your house?

Not more than three times the whole election.

Were those any particular times?

Not at all; it happened to be so.

How long did the election continue?

I can't pretend to say, I was very ill all that time, I had a physician to attend me, I had an inflammation in my leg.

Was you in bed or stiring about?

I was in bed and up.

Did you conduct your own business at that time?

My wife conducted the best part of my business.

The election was eight or nine nights?

I cannot say how many nights.

During the nine days, from the beginning to the end of the election, do you mean to say

the resident voters were not at your house only three nights?

Yes.

Only three nights?

I don't know for nights, afternoons, and so on.

Was there any one day in which they were not there?

Yes, when they did not come for all day.

To what amount might you furnish them?

I can't pretend to say.

Did you keep no account?

There was a bit of an account kept, but I am at a loss about that; my wife kept part, and I kept part.

What became of the part that you kept?

The account was given in the whole account.

You say you kept part of the account?

Yes; they were consolidated into one.

What became of it?

I believe it was sent up to the committee.

What committee?

I don't know what committee?

Who sent it?

A person that was authorised to come for it.

Who came for it?

Mr. Barton.

Did he get it?

I believe he did.

And you delivered it to him, to go to the committee?

Yes.

Did you deliver it yourself to Mr. Barton?

I won't swear whether I did or my wife.

Was you present?

I can't pretend to say; it was delivered.

What was it carried to the committee for, do you know?

I don't know what it was, I don't know what reason it was for.

I ask you, was not it to be paid?

I don't know whether it was or not, no committee promised me any thing; and no man promised me a farthing.

Have you been paid?

No; I don't expect to be paid.

You delivered it to Mr. Barton, to be carried to the committee.

I did not call it a bill.

Only an account?

It was an account directed to nobody.

But you did not expect it to be paid, you swear?

Yes.

For what other purpose was it to go?

I don't know.

You said just now a person was authorised to come for it?

I know no more than that a person came for it?

Was it ordered to be made out, or was any account asked for?

I believe it was.

By who?

By Mr. Barton.

Before the time he came for it?

I should imagine it was.

And when it was made out, you delivered it to him, to be given to the committee?

Yes.

What was the amount of your bill?

The whole amount of that account, was not quite 46l.

What do you mean by that account?

I don't call it a bill, it was not addressed to any person.

Is there a bill besides?

No.

Is there any other account of any sort?

No.

Is that all that is owing to you?

I don't call it owing.

Is it all you have a right to make an account of?

I had no right at all.

From what chalking or marking up, or any thing, were the two accounts of you and your wife taken from; what part did she keep, and what part did you keep?

Just as it happened; when I was able I kept, and when I was not she kept it.

Did the account take in what you delivered to the out-voters, and to the in-voters too?

Yes; all in toto.

You put in that account both the in-voters and the out-voters?

Yes.

Then you did keep some account of the in-voters there?

Yes; jointly.

Are you sure of that?

Yes; as sure as I stand here.

What do you mean by the word jointly: the account you say is no bill, but it was an account of expences.—What do you mean by jointly?

The word jointly includes both in-voters and out-voters; they were put down with a bit of pencil.

Suppose an out-voter has a glass of brandy and water, when you noted down the first charge, you put it down?

Yes.

That is a single article?

Yes.

Suppose an in-voter has a pint of ale, or picks a bone, does that go down?

Yes.

Then by jointly, you mean that all those individual articles appear upon one account?

Yes.

You keep a house in the road to Warwick?

Yes.

Out-voters came to the house?

Yes.

Do you mean to say, that more than ten individual out-voters came in the nine days?

I should not wonder if there were not twelve, first and last.

Mr. Barton had the management of a great many of them, had not he?

No, some of them were friends to me, and they brought friends to me; some from London, and some from Liverpool, and all parts.

The arrangement of all that you know nothing of?

You say the in-voters had not brandy and water, or spirits; at least not to your knowledge?

No? they had not.

Those that came into your house, did they come to see the out-voters, or did they come to talk about the election?

The town-voters were very seldom in the house, the out-voters came and brought some of their Coventry friends with them.

If they wanted a pint of ale, you let them have it?

Yes.

If they wanted a bit of breat and cheese, they had it?

Yes.

Upon your oath, did you do this of your own head, or did you do it from an order or expectation of an order fom any body in the town?

I did not expect any order at all; I did it entirely of my own head.

When Barton asked for this account you gave it to him?

Yes.

When was it he asked you for it; how long ago?

I think about two or three days after the poll closed.

He knew probably you had voters in your house?

He did.

What became of the account you don't know?

No.

Have you ever applied to Captain Barlow for it?

I never applied to any body; I never expected it.

Court.—You said there were only twelve out-voters first and last?

About twelve; there might be one less or one more.

What part of the election did the out-voters first begin to come to your house?

After the election began; some a week before it closed, some two, three, or four days before it closed.

I understand you, that the total number of voters that came from the first day of the poll to the last, amounted to about twelve?

Yes.

What was the greatest number of out-voters?

I have no doubt there was twelve; at one time they would go into the town and get a dinner with their friends, and then come again.

Then they were the same persons?

Yes.

You have mentioned there were twelve voters first and last.

Yes.

I wish to know whether there were more than twelve out-voters in the whole.—Had you more than twelve, thirteen, or fourteen?

I don't recollect I had more than twelve; I had twelve at the table one day.

When you gave the account to Barton, what reason had you to suppose it would be carried to the committee?

I had no reason for it, any further than he said get a bit of an account made out, and I will take it to the committee.

Are you sure he used the word committee?

I think he did.

You must swear what you know of your own knowledge?

He did.

You say he was authorized to come for your account.—Did he inform you by what authority he came?

No; he did not inform me of his authority.

You say you had twelve out-voters in your house at one time?

Yes.

All the out-voters, therefore, that you have had in your house, you have had at one and the same time?

I cannot say that; because sometimes there would be four or five missing, and then they would be altogether again.

Did Barton ask you for the account of the out-voters separately?

No; he did not ask any thing about that.

Withdrew.

Court cleared; agreed to call BARTON, *again.*

SAMUEL BARTON, *called again.*

Have you had any conversation with Watts since he was examined?

Yes; I heard somebody say I should be hauled over the coals, about the bill.—I went to Watts and asked him about the bill, and he said "I don't know any thing about the bill, you called upon me for a bill." Now I recollect calling upon him for a bill; for before the election, there were two treats given: one by the Corporation and another by the Draper's Company; and these treats I had the management of in that part of the town in that ward, as the Alderman was ill, it was left to me.—There were bills made out for the first night which the corporation gave, and likewise for the night after.—I paid the money out of my pocket to all the landlord's that furnished the treats in that ward.—I have not received my money; and after the election was over I called upon Watts: I had lost the account which I had paid him, I did not know correctly what it was; the money was given, I think, into Mr. Mullis's hands the mayor.—I did not receive it of him till within this month.

You have received it?

Yes.

And you paid Watts before?

Yes.

That bill that you called upon Watts for, was it the bill of the treats that were given by the Corporation, and the Draper's Company,

or was it the bill for eating and drinking at his house during the election?

No; I called for a bill which I had to demand of them.

Did you ever demand from Watts since the election, any bill for the amount of what was eat and drank at his house during the election?

No.

Did you call upon Watts for any account of the money that was expended at his house during the election?

No; it was the bill I asked him for, that I had paid.

Did he give you that account?

I think he did.

In that account was any thing consolidated.—Did he only give you an account of the two treats, or did he consolidate with it the sum of money expended in his house during the election?

Only them; I do not recollect any thing else.

Did you look at the account he gave you?

No; he only said how much it was, I never had any bill.

How much was it?

I think thirty or forty pounds, I can't justly say what it was.

At the time you asked him for the bill, did you say any thing about a committee or the committee?

I said I wanted to take it to the gentlemen who gave the orders for the treats, and most of the Aldermen had paid; there was a committee formed amongst the corporation to give so much money themselves.

And you wanted it to carry to the committee to have it paid?

Yes.

Was this only for the two treats previous to the election, or for any money spent in his house during the election?

No, I know of no other account; I knew he had a great many out-voters at his house.

Did you ever ask for any account of that?

No.

That is the only account you ever had of him?

Yes.

When did you ask him for his memorandums?

A few days after the election; I can't positively say the day.

How long before the election were these two treats?

It might be a fortnight or three weeks; I can't say to a week when it was.

What was the size of the account he gave you, was it a long piece of paper, or what?

About that size, (describing it.)

Was it only one piece of paper, or two pieces of paper?

It was only the sum put down, we were not required to give in the particulars.

Who did you take it to?

I gave it to the mayor Mr. Mullis, and he paid it me; he did not pay it when I took it to him.—I took it to the council-house.

Where did you take it when you received it from Watts?

I did not take it to the council-house for some time after, I can't say how long.

Mr. Mullis ultimately paid you?

Yes.

You have paid Watts?

I paid him before the election.

How soon after the treats did you pay him?

I think the next day.—I did not keep any of them out a week.—I paid all the treats.

Who appointed you to pay all these treats?

I don't know; it was a general appointment amongst the corporation.

How much was the total amount you paid altogether?

I cannot say whereabouts; it might be twenty pounds altogether; I cannot say.

The whole costs of the treats was about twenty pounds?

Or may be not so much.—It was in two different accounts.

I understand you were the person deputed to pay the publicans, who had given these treats in the ward in which Watts lives?

Yes.

Were any houses opened besides Watts's?

Yes.

What was the total of the expences in that particular ward?

Between twenty and thirty pounds altogether.

Then when Watts gave you a bill to the amount of between thirty and forty pounds, did you suppose it was only the bill that you had paid him?

I don't think it was so much.

WILLIAM WATTS, *called again.*

What was the bill for, which you delivered to Barton.—You have spoke to us of a joint account delivered to Barton at his request; what was the nature of the items composing that account.—How did the account arise?

Eating and drinking, and so-forth.

When?

At the time of the election.

What was the amount of it?

It was not forty-six pounds.

Was the account you gave to Barton an account of the treats given by the corporation and the drapers company, or did it contain all the expenditure of the victuals and drink during the election?

He had the account of all.

All in one account?

No; in two accounts.

Describe the two accounts.—What did they first contain?

That was for eating and drinking during the election.

What was the other account for?

For eating and drinking before the election.

When was the account for eating and drinking before the election paid?

It was paid before the election commenced.

Who paid you?

Mr. Barton.

What was the amount of the bill?

I really don't know.

Recollect yourself?

I can't recollect at all.

What I understand you to swear distinctly is, that you delivered to Mr. Barton two accounts, one of them being the account of the expences incurred previous to the election, the other the expences incurred at the election?

Yes.

Question to Barton.—Be so good as to explain it?

It is a mistake; the two accounts were the two different treats.

I ask you whether you received two accounts or one?

I took one to Mr. Woodcock's, and the other to Mr. Mullis.

You have sworn within these five minutes, there was but one account?

If I did, I did not mean it; there were two different treats.—I received two bills of him, one of which I took into the committee, or whatever they were, of the corporation, and the other to the drapers company.

What was the amount of each of them?

I believe about twenty pounds both.

He says he gave you an account of forty-six pounds.

No, he is mistaken; he never gave me any such account.

Did you pay him before you got the account or after?

The next day after the treat.

And you did not get the account till after the election?

Yes.

So you paid him the treats before you got the accounts?

Yes.

Then when you came after the election, to ask him for the accounts, did you ask him for the accounts of the treats only?

I never saw any account but these two sums.

Question to Watts.—How much did Barton pay you?

I don't recollect.

Did Barton pay the day after the treats?

I imagine it was, or thereabouts.

If he paid you the day after the treats, he must have paid you before the election?

Yes.

Then after the election you gave him in an account of the expences at the election?

Yes.

Did he ever pay you that bill, or any other person?

No, I did not expect to be paid.—I did not deliver it as a bill, it was a gross amount.

Whether you thought the persons to whom you delivered a bill for treats given before the election, were the same persons to whom you should give the bill after the election.—Did you consider that the bill for expences incurred at the election, ought to be sent to the same description of persons to whom you sent a bill of expences incurred previous to the election. —Answer that question, aye or no?

No. —I did not expect it.

Did you give them to be carried to the same person?

Yes, when they were required.

Did you give to Barton the bill for the expences incurred at the election, with the same view that you gave him the bill previous to the election?

No.

Then why did you give them both to Barton?

Because he asked for two accounts; the account before the election, and at the election.

How many pieces of paper did they make?

Two.

Are you sure of that?

Yes.

What did the first paper contain?

I don't know.

Did the first paper contain charges incurred by the drapers company and the corporation?

I had no charge against none.

Here is a bill incurred at your house, for treats previous to the election. You say you delivered two bills to Barton, I ask you, if one of

them contained the charges against the drapers company for their proportion; and against the corporation for their proportion?

No, I did not.—It was some charge against somebody, but I don't know who.

Did one piece of paper contain all the expences, incurred at the treat previous to the election the drapers company were to defray?

I believe it might.

Was there any thing else in that paper?

Nothing else.

You are sure that of the two accounts which you delivered to him, one contained nothing else than a charge brought by you against the drapers company, for expences incurred at a treat prior to the election?

I cannot pretend to say who it was brought against.

You had a claim upon the drapers company, and upon the corporation, for treats given previous to the election, for which you were paid by Mr. Barton?

Yes.

Mr. Barton came to you for an account for his own satisfaction, he having paid you?

Yes.

Then you delivered to him two accounts, and two accounts only?

Yes.

One of those accounts contained a charge which in fact you have been paid before?

Yes.

Did that paper which contained that charge, contain the whole charges you had been paid before, or only that part which related to the Drapers Company, or to the Corporation?

The charges he fetched up the last time was another charge.

There were two treats given at your house?

Yes.

Did the amount of those two treats given before the election, constitute the sum total in one of the accounts given by you to Barton?

Yes; it did.

Then I am to understand, that one piece of paper contained the whole of the expence of the two treats which were given at your house previous to the election?

Yes.

Did it contain any thing else?

Not to my knowledge.

You must speak correct?

Yes; it was so.

What was the amount?

I don't know.

What did the other account consist of?

The other account was not forty-six pounds.

Then am I to understand you, that the account which did not include any thing of the treats, amounted to forty-six pounds?

Yes.

So that forty-six pounds is the sum total of one of the accounts delivered by you to Barton?

Yes.

Was it you yourself that made out that account, which you gave to Barton?

I might write a little, and my wife might write a little, and another person might write a little.

Did you put down on the same paper the treat given by the drapers company, and by the corporation?

I know of no distinction.

How many days distance between the two treats?

There might be four or five days.

And you put down the two treats upon one bit of paper?

Yes.

Can you recollect the amount?

No, I can't at all.

You gave that account to Barton, after the election?

No, that was the day before the election.

Did you give him the account he paid you?

I don't know whether it was that day or the day after, I can't pretend to say.

Did you give him any account oftener than once?

I gave him an account twice.

Was one account before the election and the other after?

Yes.

Did Barton pay you the day you gave him the first account?

I can't pretend tosay it was before the election, but I can't say.

After the election he asked you for another account?

Yes.

The day you gave him that account after the election, was it upon one or two bits of paper?

I think it was on one paper, but I am not sure.

What did it contain?

Not quite forty-six pounds.

Was that account only for the expences during the election?

It was.

Did it include any part of the treats?

No.

Have you been paid that?

No.

What did Mr. Barton say to you, when he asked you for the second account after the election?

He signified he had called for the account.

Did he say any thing more than ask you for the accounts?

Yes; he seemed to signify he was to take it to the committee.

When he asked you for the first account, did he say any thing about a committee?

I don't know that he did.

But when he asked you for the second account, he signified it was to be carried to a committee?

Yes.

Question to Mr. Barton.—You have heard what your witness says?

Yes.

How often did you ask him for an account?

He gave me an account of the treats after the election was over; I called upon him again to get the account again.

By virtue of your oath, was it only to get an account of of the treats, or any other account?

For my own satisfaction only, he mentioned something about another account, and said he would send his bill; I told him I only wanted an account of the money I had paid out of my own pocket.

Did he give you in writing an account of his expences during the electioneering?

Never; I never received any account of him but for the treats.

By virtue of your oath, will you take upon you to say, they were the only accounts you received from him?

Never; he told me there was another ac-

count, and I said I had nothing to do with that, I could not settle that.

And you take upon you to swear, that the only account he gave you were of the second treat?

Intirely.

He told you of the 46l.?

He did not say the sum.

Then the account of the treats were two different accounts?

He at first put them upon one paper, and then I told him they might be put upon two different papers, because they were for two different parties; the corporation were to pay one and the drapers company the other.

Question to Mr. Watts.—You swear it was upon one piece of paper; Barton says you first gave it him upon one piece of paper, and he desired you to make it into two?

I cannot say whether I did or not, I cannot recollect.

Then you don't know but what he is saying may be true?

Mine is true, and his is true seemingly, if that is the case.

Have you, at any time, called upon any of the publicans in Coventry for any bills, for what they have expended during the election?

Never.

Then of course, if you have never called for any bills, you have not received any?

Upon my oath I never have.

Neither bill or account?

Neither.

Question to Mr. Barton.—You say Watts mentioned another bill to you?

Yes; I told him I could not tell any thing about that; I had a bill of the same kind, he

said he had a bill, and wished me to get that paid.

Did his wife give you an account?

No.

Was his wife present?

I think not; I believe he was in the room by himself, but I really cannot be positive.

What was it you said about the committee?

I told him I wanted to take it to the corporation committee, there was a certain sum of money in a fund, to give a treat to the freemen, and some night after that, another was given by the drapers company; I had the distributing of these two sums, as soon as the treats were over, I think I paid the first the day after, and the drapers a few days after. I did not receive the money till after the election.

Why did not you receive it till after the election?

I applied to the commissioners, and they said I must get it of the mayor.

Who were there, name them?

Mr. Mayor.

Was Mr. Inge there?

I don't recollect.

Mr. Woodcock?

He don't belong to the corporation.

Was Mr. Williamson there?

I can't justly say, there was five or six of them.

When was it you made this application?

After the election.

Then you did not apply to them to pay you the money you had expended for them, till after the election was over?

We were all together, the alderman belonging to the Ward was very ill, the freemen were always willing to do any thing for me, and

they desired me to collect it in the room of the alderman; I asked the mayor for the money, he desired me to call about christmas.

When did you understand he had got some superfluous money?

I understood the mayor had got my part in his hands.

What fund are you speaking of?

There was so much money given for the corporation treat, and the mayor had it in his hands; I was told the mayor had it for me, and when I went to him he said my account would take it all.

Did you hear of a fund, before the treat or afterwards?

There was no fund.

Question repeated.

I never heard till after the treat that there was so much money.

When did you first hear of the fund?

Not till after the election.

Who kept the fund?

The money was put into the mayor's hands, I thought it hard I could not get it.

William Farmer, called in and sworn.

Did you live at the White Bear Inn, at Coventry, at the last election?

Yes.

Who keeps the Inn?

Mr. Grimes.

What are you?

I was waiter there.

Did Mr. Jefferys live at your house during the election,—did he use to dine at home frequently?

Some days he did, some days he did not.

When he dined, who used to dine with him?

Some gentlemen, the town's people.

Tell us those that you know?

Mr. Inge and Mr. Woodcock dined there once or twice; Mr. Cater and several others. I can't recollect all the names.

Did Mr. Williamson dine there?

Yes: once or twice. I can't say how many days.

Mr. Perkins?

I don't recollect seeing him there.

How many generally dined?

Sometimes fourteen or sixteen.

Mr. Ewbank?

Mr. Ewbank did dine there once or twice.

Did Mr. Sharpe dine there?

No, I cannot recollect.

I mean a hatter in Coventry?

I don't recollect.

These gentlemen used to dine in a room by themselves?

Yes.

Were any other parties of the voters at Coventry at your house?

Yes; several, backwards and forwards.

People that lived at Coventry?

No; all the people that came out of the country.

No others?

Not that I know of.

Did they stay there any time?

Some of them stoped there as much as a week.

Was that during the poll?

Yes.

Did they live and sleep at your house?

Some of them lived there, breakfasted, dined, and supped.

How many?

There were several parties.

How many?

Three or four together.

In several parties, as they were acquainted with each other?

Yes.

Had you any orders for furnishing them with what they wanted?

No, they generally paid for what they had.

Did you ever receive any money from them?

Yes; I used to receive the bills in the morning.

I don' mean the gentlemen that dined?

They all dined, and the people that came to vote, and those kind of things, all paid.

There was nothing left unpaid?

Not with them.

Was there with any body?

Yes.

What sort of persons were they; were they voters?

I can't tell; there were a great many people came backwards and forwards that had victuals, and drink who did not pay for it.

What sort of persons were they?

I can't tell what they were; there were some constables for some.

Were there any town's people?

Not that had any thing to eat and drink, except the constables.

Was any bill ever made out?

There was a bill made out.

Who ordered you to make that bill out?

My mistress.

What did you do with the bill when you made it out?

I took it to Mr. Williamson's house, and left it there.

Have you seen Mr. Williamson since, about it?

No.

How came you to take it to Mr. Williamson?

My mistress ordered me? I have left Coventry now.

What time did you take it to Mr. Williamson's house, was it after the election or during the election?

It was in the election.

After the poll was done with?

It must be after; I think it included broken glasses, what they had to eat and drink, and gentlemen's dinners, and every thing; a general account altogether.

What was the amount of the bill?

About 200l.

And that you left at Mr. Williamson's?

Yes.

Was there any other bill besides?

I don't know of any other.

Did you make it out yourself?

Yes.

What did you take it from?

A book of my mistresses.

You did not see Mr. Williamson to ask for payment?

No.

Did you see any thing of the people that sat at Saint Mary's Hall, about the election?

No; there were other servants in the house.

Was yon ever sent with any message to the Gaol Hall?

No.

Was you ever present when any messengers were sent?

No.

You had a great deal of the management of the house, during the election?

A great deal.

Had you any orders, when any of the voters came for beer; was you ordered to refuse them?

I was ordered not to take any from the bar unless it was paid for.

Had you any orders given you at all?

I had none.

Had you any orders to give any away?

No.

Had you had any orders not to give it away?

Yes; I had orders not to deliver it without the money.

What sort of persons were those whose refreshment made part of the 200l. bill?

The chaises and broken glasses, and the dinners Mr. Carter, and other people had.

That was inclued in the bill?

Yes.

Only gentlemen of the town?

Nobody else, that I know.

Cross examined.—You was there during the election?

Yes.

And before it?

Yes.

You talk of Constables; I believe a considerable damage was done to your master's house?

Yes; they broke the windows and doors.

The chairs and tables, and got into different rooms?

Yes.

What did they want?

They wanted to find Mr. Jefferys.

Those are expences and losses that happened upon your master?

Yes.

Whose mob were they?

Mr. Bird's mob, I believe.

Who did they cry for?

They wanted Mr. Jefferys out.

Mr. Jefferys was obliged to escape?

He was up stairs.

After that there was constables charged with the protection of the house?

Yes.

Was not it necessary that there should be such persons to protect the house from the mob?

Yes.

Did these constables dine there?

Yes.

How long have you lived in Nottingham?

Five or six years.

The out-voters came in carriages?

Yes.

How much of it was for carriages?

Forty or fifty pounds.

The provision-breakfast, dinner, and supper?

They did not stop long: those that slept there paid and then went away, a great many of them; some did not.

I believe you speak hastily; youd on't mean to say that the gentlemen who dined there with Mr. Jefferys did not pay their scott?

Sometimes they did.

It was charged to them, when they did not?

Yes.

When it was not paid by Mr. Inge, he was considered as owing it?

Yes.

You say it was included in that account;

but it was the reckoning of Mr. Inge; he had not paid it perhaps?

Every thing was included in that account.

So you put every thing that remained unpaid of every description, to this account.

Yes.

But the gentlemen who dined there paid their scott every day?

Sometimes they did, sometimes they did not.

But I mean they were asked individually?

Yes.

The chaise hire was about 50l.?

Yes; their names are all in the book.

Some days some paid, and some did not?

Yes.

Some gentlemen paid, and some did not?

Yes.

And that bill that included this, was carried to Alderman Williamson?

Yes.

How long have you left Coventry?

Two months.

Was that bill ever brought back?

Not that I know.

Should you have seen it, if it had been brought back?

I can't say; I left Coventry very soon after that.

Were any orders given to make a distinction between resident, and non-resident voters?

Not that I know of.

And that bill included all the damage done to the house?

Yes; the glaziers bill is in it.

And all the reckonings left unpaid by the gentlemen, Mr. Carter, Mr. Inge, and gentle-

men of that description, was made out to Mr. Williamson?

It was not made out to any body, it was sent to Mr. Williamson.

Was Mr. Barlow at the White Bear, during any part of that time?

Sometimes.

Did he pay his part of the reckoning when he dined there?

That is not paid, I believe.

Was any part of the reckoning paid?

Some days it was paid, and some days it was not.

Was it unpaid any one of the days that Mr. Barlow dined there?

I cannot answer for that.

How many dinners were prepared any one day, at your master's house?

Only one.

Might the resident freemen have come into your master's house and had what they pleased?

No such thing.

They were never asked to have any thing in your master's house?

No.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

William Squires called in and sworn.

Do you keep a public house at Coventry?

The Crane at the top of Bishop-street.

Did any of the Coventry voters frequent your house at the last election?

There was.

Any number of them?

Many; some few Coventry people, and many that did not reside in Coventry, that were voters.

Did they come to your house by any appointment from any body?

Not to my knowledge.

Were they entertained at your house during the election?

Yes; I gave them entertainment.

I mean refreshment, eating and drinking?

Yes.

Did you confine your refreshment to any particular description, cold meat, or dinners, or suppers?

I am in the habit of cooking a great deal of victuals, and whatever I had they partook of; I am constantly cooking, when I am in my business.

How many do you suppose you may have entertained there?

Some days, I should think forty or fifty out-voters, and resident freement together; sometimes more, sometimes less.

How many do you think there used to be at meals?

The people at meal times were people that I found lodging for.

Those that live at Coventry did not have their meals in your house?

No.

They came for other refreshments?

Yes; they did come along with a friend, now and then, and had a crust of bread and cheese, or a glass of ale.

Those things that were so furnished did they pay for?

They did not.

Who was to pay for it?

I can't tell.

On whose account did you trust them?

On my own account.

Did you give them credit individually?

I did not.

Did you not expect to be paid what you was furnished?

I had no expectation at all at the time.

Did you not expect to receive the money for that which you was so furnished?

I thought I should have some satisfaction.

Did you not expect immediate payment?

I did not.

At what time did you expect to receive it; what caused a delay of the payment?

I don't know of any delay; I don't know why it was not paid.

Have you applied to any body?

I have not.

Why did not you apply?

I did not know who to apply to.

Do you expect hereafter, to be informed where to apply to?

I did not know where I was to apply to; I did not know that there was any particular person that could inform me.

Did you not expect that you would be informed of some place where you might go for the money some day or other?

I expected that I should have some satisfaction for what I had done.

From what quarter?

I could not tell from what quarter.

Did you expect it from any particular body of men?

No; I know of no particular body of men that I could expect it from.

In what interest?

I cannot say.

Did you take either part in the election?

I was not a voter.

There was two parties; was you on the side of either?

Yes; the party I was of, was of Mr. Jefferys and Mr Barlow.

The payment, you have no idea where it is to come from?

No; nor ever had.

You never expected perhaps, to be paid?

Not of payment; I have no doubt but I shall have some sort of satisfaction; but what sort I cannot say, or where from I cannot say.

Do you know why it is so long delayed?

No, I do not.

If this petition had not been depending, do you think it would have been so long delayed?

I cannot tell.

Did you not expect, if there had been no petition, that you would have been paid before this time?

I don't know I did.

You said you expected some amends made you; I ask you whether, if this petition had not been depending, you would have expected that satisfaction to be made before now?

No.

Do not you believe the petition now depending, is the reason you have not had satisfaction before now?

I don't believe that.

Have you ever made out ny accounts?

No, I have not.

What account did you keep?

I have made accounts, which I keep myself, in my own books.

Is there a correct account of all you furnished?

Of all; every thing that I did furnish.

Have you ever been applyed to by any body, to know the amount of that account?

No, never.

Have you ever applied to any body, on account of your demand?

I have not.

What may be the amount of it, as far as your memory can help you?

The amount is about 170l.

Then I understand you, that you furnished meat, drink, and lodging, to the amount of 170l. without any orders, and without knowing where to resort for payment?

I did.

At the same time expecting some satisfaction to be made you?

I have no doubt some satisfaction will be made me.

And you have no knowledge from what quarter?

I have not.

Was there any treats given at your house previous to the election?

There were.

How many?

Two.

By whom?

By the gentlemen of Coventry; the first treat was by the magistrates.

What do you mean by the magistrates?

The corporation.

Who ordered it?

I can't recollect; it was a person of the name of Howard, came to me; he did not mention any particular man's name, but said he came from the corporation. I was paid by Mr. Mullis; he was at that time mayor of Coventry.

What was the amount of the bill?

I think about seven pounds, I can't be exact in it.

Who gave the other treat?

The other treat was given in the names of the drapers company.

Who ordered it for the drapers company?

I can't recollect.

Was his name Barton?

No; I think the person who ordered it was Hooker.

Who paid you?

Mr. Nutt, Clerk to Messrs. Woodcock and Little.

What was the amount of that?

I think that was about nine pounds.

When was that paid, how soon after the treat?

Either the next day, or the next day but one.

How soon after the treat of the corporation?

I think about a week after, but the bill was paid next day.

How long was that before the election?

I think about three weeks.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Mullis who paid you the bill, about the expences of the election?

Not a word.

Where did he pay you?

In his own house; he sent for me to his own house.

You opened your house without any orders at all?

I did.

How long have you kept this house?

About two years, or two years and a half.

I understand that you said, as to the resident freemen, if they asked you for a pint of beer you gave it them?

Yes.

They were not treated as the out-voters were at all?

No.

What they had was upon your free gift?

Yes.

Did you give your waiters orders to give them any thing?

I am my own waiter, and my own master.

And you mean to say the resident-freemen were coming in, in the way you speak of?

Yes; if the freemen came and wished to set down at meals with the other freemen; I told them they had homes of their own.

Did you observe this distinction between the out-voters and the in-voters, during the time of the election?

I did.

With respect to any of those accounts, had you any previous communication with Mr. Barlow?

I never spoke to Mr. Barlow, that I know of, till I saw him in London.

You are no voter?

No.

Your wishes were with the party?

Yes.

You had a personal zeal for Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow?

Yes.

And without any order or apporbation, you have done what you have stated?

Yes.

Members.—In that bill of 170l. is there any

distinction of what was done by resident voters and non-resident voters?

No.

You said you did not give credit to the town voters individually?

Yes; I did not give credit to any one person.

Then you kept no separate account of what each man had?

No.

During the election there was no separate account of what each man had at your house; but what they all had together?

Yes; the liquor was all put together.

What amount of 170l. might there be applied to liquor?

I cannot say.

Ten pounds?

Considerably above ten pounds.

Tell me as near as you can recollect, the amount of the liquor?

I think the liquor, as well as I can recollect, came altogether to ninety pounds.

The resident voters had nothing but liquor?

No.

How came the out-voters to come to your house?

A great many of the out-voters knew me, and knowing that I more beds than many other houses had, I could find them lodgings.

Do you know if they were directed to your house by any person?

Not that I know of.

Were there no regular billets?

No.

Were any of the out-voters, that were at your house, strangers to you?

A great many of them were.

How came you to take those strangers in?

They came along with those that did know me, and asked me if I could accommodate their friends with lodgings.

Do you know of your knowledge if any of the publicans in Coventry, received any of the expences incurred during the election?

I don't know of any that have.

Do you know, of your own knowledge, if any public houses were opened in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I suppose there were freemen's houses in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I saw freemen at a house very near me; about forty yards off.

Did you go into any of those public houses?

No.

What is the house near you?

The Bull and anchor.

Was that house open in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, in the same way as your's was in the interest of Captain Barlow?

I cannot say; I saw freemen going backwards and forwards.

Did you know any of those freemen?

I cannot say.

How do you know there were friends of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I knew, because the person himself is a particular friend of Mr. Bird and Moore; and people that were there, were crying out Bird and Moore.

There was no flag there, was there?

I believe there was, but I can't say; I don't know that I saw any thing of the kind; I go very little into the street.

Are you sure you did not see it; it was within forty yards of your own house?

I can't say.

At no part of the election?

Not to my knowledge, I can't say I did.

Was there any flag hung out at your own window?

No.

Adjourned.

Friday, March 4, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, ESQ.—*in the Chair.*

ROGER HILL, *called in and sworn.*

You have been at Coventry since you were examined here?

Yes.

Have you had any conversation with any body respecting your evidence here?

No.

Have you had any conversation with respect to the evidence you are to give now?

Yes, Mr. Mason told me what I was come for; I came from Coventry this morning.

Do you know Hewett, who keeps the Fleur de Lis?

Yes.

Was you in his house during the election?

Yes.

Had you any thing to eat and drink there?

Yes.

Did you see any body else there?

Yes; several freemen.

People that lived at Coventry?

Yes.

Did you ever see Mr. Perkins there?

Yes; I have seen him there.

Did the other people of Coventry, with yourself, pay for what they had?

No; I saw no money pass.

You was never asked for any thing?

No; I met Mr. Perkins in the street, I said I should like a sup of beer, and he said go to Hewett's house, and you shall have some.

Did you go in consequence of that?

Yes; I went.

Did you get any beer?

Yes; two or three pots.

You went in, many times?

I went a many times.—*Examined*—

You voted for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

I suppose the only sup of liquor you drank during the election, was at Hewett's?

No.

Which is the best house in Coventry.—Is the Dolphin the best house?

I never was at the Dolphin.

Be so good as to name at what house you had a sup of beer?

I had some at many houses.—I had some at Mr. Lindon's, the Robin Hood.

You was never at the Dolphin during the election?

No.

You never was at the Bird in Hand?

Yes; I was once there.

Watson's?

Mr. Watson's.

Did you get a sup of liquor there?

Yes; I shared a tankard of ale; there was but one, Mr. Bird's servant and myself.

Who paid for that?

Mr. Bird's servant.

Had you any more at that house, in the course of the election?

No; never had but once.

Do you happen to know Thorps, in Spon Street?

Yes; I do.

Was you ever there during the election?

I don't recollect that I was.

Was you or was you not there?

I was not there.

The Butt and Anchor?
Yes; I was there.
During the election?
Yes.
How often?
I might be there once or twice.
Had you any liquor there?
Yes.
What liquor might you have there?
I shared two or three quarts there.
Whose friends were there?
Mr. Bird's friends.
It was a house of Mr. Bird's and Mr. Moore's?
Yes.
How many might there be?
I cannot say; there were a great quantity of people there; it is a great house for boat-men.
Were there a number of in-voters there?
Very few.
Very few, you did say?
Yes.
They were drinking?
Yes.
Who paid for your liquor?
My brother.
Is your brother a voter?
No.
He took you there I suppose?
Yes.
How often did he take you there?
Only that once.
Who took you there the other times?
Myself.
Who paid for the liquor there?
Myself.
That you swear?

Yes.

Do you know the Black Horse in Spon Street?

Yes.

Was you there during the election?

I do not recollect that I was.

Alderman Perkins, when you asked for a drop, said you might have it at Hewett's?

Yes.

Upon your oath, did you not see freemen drinking when you were at the Bird in Hand, and the Butt and Archer?

There might be; I cannot say.

Did you not see them drinking there?

Yes; they were.

Freemen of the town?

Yes.

What liquor might you have, beer or spirits?

Ale.

So you know Mr. Bird's house in Coventry?

Yes.

Was you there before you polled?

Yes.

How often was you there before you polled?

Two or three times.

At what time of the day?

Twelve or one o'clock.

Was you in the house?

Yes.

Did you see any freemen there?

Yes; I saw some out-voters there.

You knew them to be out-voters.

Yes.

No freemen of the town?

There might be a few freemen of the town.

There might be?

Yes; there were a few freemen of the town.

Who were the committee?

I don't know.

Did you go into any room?

Yes.

Did you go into any room where gentlemen were doing business?

No.

Did you go into any room where there was any thing to eat and drink?

Yes; there was some kread and cheese.

When was you first determined to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore; was you always determined to vote for them?

No; I did say I would serve the corporation.

When did you say you would serve the corporation?

Once or twice.

As often to other people, you said you would serve Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes; I did after Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys came, but not before.

As soon as they became candidates, you said you would vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

You declared you would vote for them?

Yes.

You had refused to vote for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I said I would vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

You say you were not in any room in Mr. Bird's house, but in the room where there was bread and cheese?

Not while there was any business going on. —I saw no committee, or any thing of the kind.

How often might you be there?

Once or twice.

Members.—You saw Mr. Perkins in the street, and you told him you would like a glass of beer, and he told you you might go to Hewett's?

Yes.

You went there and had some beer?

Yes.

In what interest was Hewett's house opened?

The low party.

In whose interest was the Bird in Hand opened?

Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore's.

Was there any one with the coachman and you, when you went into the Bird in Hand?

No.

Were there people in the same room?

Yes.

You stated that Mr. Bird's coachman paid for the liquor?

Yes.

Did he pay for any one except you?

Not that I saw.

What day did you poll?

On Wednesday, that the poll closed on the Saturday.

Who paid at the Robin Hood?

No-body.

Did you go in there by yourself?

The landlord called me in several times as I had got work upon my shoulders, and asked me to drink.

Were there any other persons there?

Yes; several drinking.

Did you see them pay any thing?

No.

Did you see Lindon call in any one else?

No; only my shop-mate.

Do you recollect what day you went into the Fleur de Lis?

No; it was before I had voted.

But it was after you had been at the Bull and Anchor, and the Black Horse, and these other places?

I never was at the Black Horse; it was before I went to the Bull and Anchor, and before I went to Mr. Bird's house.

Were you in any of the houses opened in Mr. Barlow's interest, except Hewett's?

I don't think I was.

That was the only house opened in their interest, that you drank at?

Yes.

How many did you drink at in the interest of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I drank in none but two that I know of; the coachman, and me, and my brother, at Mr. Bant's.

Did you know whose friends were at the Fleur de Lis, before you went there?

Yes.

Then how came you to go there?

I knew it was the corporation interest.

How came you to go there, when you was attached to the opposite party?

I did not know then on which side I should vote.

You told us upon your cross-examination, that you had made up your mind, as soon as you knew that Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were candidates?

I don't know that I said so.

Yes, you did.—How came you to go and drink at the expence of the enemy?

Richard Marson was continually after me, to go to the Fleur de Lis.

Had you ever been at the Fleur de Lis before you saw Mr. Perkins?

Yes.

Then you knew you could not go there without his direction, or his permission?

Yes; I had been there before.

Was permission necessary, as you had been there once, to go again?

Yes.

At the time you went by permission from Mr. Perkins, had you resolved to poll for them?

No.

Did you tell them you had permission from Mr. Perkins?

I told them I had seen Mr. Perkins in the street, and he said I might have some beer.

You took no letter or order?

No.

Did you ever see Mr. Perkins at the Fleur de Lis?

Several times.

Did you ever see him pay money there?

No.

When you met Mr. Perkins in the street, was it during the poll?

No; it was during the election, while the canvass was.

Was it after Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were declared candidates?

It was somewhere about that time.

Was it before or after?

It was afterwards.

How many days before the poll?

I cannot tell.

Was it a week?

Yes, I think it was.

Was it a fortnight?

I don't think it was so much; it was about a week before the poll.

When were Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys declared candidates?

Somewhere thereabouts.

Do you say that you know Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were declared candidates a week before the beginning of the poll?

I cannot say that they were.

Do you know that they were not?

No.

Do you know any thing about it?

No.

Then why did you say it was after Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys were declared candidates, when now you say you do not know whether it was so or not?

It was some time then about. I know as they then went to Mr. Barlow to give their votes on the Sunday at the barracks.

To promise their votes?

Yes.

That is not a week before the commencement of the poll?

I cannot speak to a day, I think it was about a week.

What do you call about a week, six days or three days?

Six days is about a week.

What induced you to alter your mind; you said you at one time intended to vote for the corporation; had any temptation been held out to you to induce you to alter that determination?

No, I had not.

Then why did you change your mind?

Because I liked Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore better than I did the other gentlemen. I thought they were the most proper gentlemen.

But before they came, your intention was to have obliged the corporation?

Yes.

Was you at the Fleur de Lis during the poll?

No.

How long before the poll?

I believe I was there the Sunday before the the poll.

Did you swear or not it was the Sunday before the poll?

It was the Sunday before the poll.

You swear that positively?

Yes.

Was it during the poll that you were at the Bird in Hand?

Yes.

And the Five Houses?

It was not during the poll that I was at Mr. Bant's, the Bull and Anchor. That was before poll.

You stated you saw Mr. Perkins at the Fleur de Lis?

Yes, several times.

Did you see him giving any orders with regard to the victuals or drink?

No, I did not.

Was he sitting at the head of the table?

No.

Witness ordered to withdraw.

JOSEPH PARKS, *called in and sworn.*

What are you?

A wheelwright and coachmaker.

Live where?

At Coventry.

Who did you vote for at the last election?

For Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow.

Do you recollect going to Watts, at the Red Lion during the poll?

Yes.

How often might you be there?

I might be there as many as four times.

Were other Freemen there at the same time?

Yes.

Freemen living at Coventry?

There were.

What did you do there?

Eat and drink.—I supped there two nights to the best of my knowledge.

When you supped there, did you or the other Freemen pay for your supper?

I paid for none, and saw none paid for.

How many Freemen were there the night you supped?

I did not take notice how many there were; there was a goodish many.

Do you know Alderman Butterworth?

Yes.

Do you know what ward he is Alderman of?

He is Alderman of that ward.

Did you see him there?

He was there one night a little while. I don't recollect that he was at supper there, but he was drinking a little ale.

What did he do while he was there?

He drank a little ale, and he gave a toast.

Before or after supper?

I don't recollect.—I think it was not that night that there was a supper.

How long did he stay?

To the best of my recollection about half an hour.

During the poll or before it began?

During the election.

Was it after the poll began or not?

I really believe it was.

Was it after Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow came to Coventry?

Yes.

Are you sure of that?

I am quite certain of it. I never stopped there long myself, I always went home by ten o'clock.

Did he sit down along with the Freemen and some of the company?

He sat down at one end of the table; they all sat round the table.

Did they?

Yes they sat round the table drinking.

And he sat with them?

Yes; and gave a toast.

Did he pay for what he had?

I did not see any money pass.

Do you recollect what the toast was that he gave?

May the enemies of Great Britain ever want a guinea.

Did you hear him while you was there, giving any directions to the people of the house, of any sort?

No.

Were you at King's public house during the election?

I have called there.

What sign is it?

It is the Talbot: I think, now, it was not there; I think it was in writing the King's friends.

What ward is that?

Cross cheaping.—I frequently called in there.

Did you see Freemen there drinking during the election?

Yes, I have seen them some few, three or four, but I never stopped there many times.

Did you ever stop there to drink yourself?

Yes.

Did you pay for what you had while you stopped there?

I suppose I drank about two pints that I did not pay for.

Was you at the Bear?

Never, all the election.

Was you at the King's Head during the election?

I was frequently there, because I do a great deal for the house.

Did you ever drink there?

No; I never saw any body drink.

Examined.—You was at the King's friends, and for old acquaintance and kindness he gave you a couple of pints of beer?

Yes.

You never saw any eating there?

No.

THOMAS ANSTEY, *called in and sworn.*

You live at Coventry?

Yes.

Do you know Mr. Squires?

Yes.

Do you remember being at his house during the time of the polling, at the last election?

Yes.

When was you; who with?

I was there on the Saturday, after the poll began.

Who was with you there?

I went with a person of the name of Morris Walker, an out-voter; he came from Banbury, in Oxfordshire, or somewhere there.

Did you ever see Mr. Mullis, the mayor, there?

Yes.

Was he there when he went out that night?

That morning he was there.

Was there any freemen of Coventry there?

Yes; there were a great number of the freemen there.

How many do you think altogether?

I cannot tell whether they were all free men.

How many were there altogether?

I suppose about thirty.

How many people of Coventry that you knew?

Three or four, that I knew very well.

How were they employed; did you see any of them eating and drinking?

I had some bread and cheese, and ale, with them myself.

Did any thing pass between you and Mr. Mullis?

Yes; he asked me to fetch Samuel King, a town-voter. I fetched him, and I called at the mayor's house as I came by, to let him know that I had brought the person; he called him out, but what passed between them, I don't know.

By the time you had got King, and got to Mr. Mullis's house, he was at home?

Yes; I told him King was gone up to the Crane; he came to the Crane, and King was there, Mr. Mullis took him out, what passed I cannot tell.—I saw them afterwards at the Crane, there was a dinner provided, and the mayor asked King to partake of it.

Did he ask any body else?

I went myself.—He said to King take your friends in with you.

Did he mean you that he was to take in?

I do not know whether he thought I was a freeman, or not.—I am not.

Did you dine?

Yes.

How many were there?

Only three or four freemen, that I know.

Tell us the names of any that you know?

Morris Walker, John Chestin, James Parsons, who is here now.

Do you recollect a man of the name of Thomas Howard?

Yes; he was a waiter there, and I believe he dined as well as the rest.

How long did you stay there after dinner?

I believe three or four hours.

Was Mr. Mullis in the house at the time?

No; I did not see him after.—He did not come into the room where we dined.

He did not dine with you?

No.

Had you any thing to drink after dinner?

Yes; as much liquor as we pleased: rum, rum and water, what the freemen pleased to call for; any thing the house afforded.

After these three or four hour's entertainment, was there a bill called?

I did not see any thing of the kind.—There might be unknown to me.

Was you asked for any thing?

No.

Did any body go away with you?

No; I left King there, I went away by myself.

Did some part of the company stay after you?

Yes; I only staid three or four hours.

Was you there afterwards or any other day?

Yes; but there was nothing on any consequence that I saw after that day.

You did not dine there?

No; I did go into the house, but did not stop any time.

When did King poll; that day?

I cannot say.

Did King poll the day of the dinner?

I think he did not, I will not be sure.

If I understand you right, you say you came to the Crane with Walker?

Yes.

Walker was your friend?

Yes.

Mr. Mull's desired you to fetch this King?

Yes.

You went with King; merely because you was an inhabitant of Coventry?

Yes.

What had you to do with King, because you say Mr. Mullis desired King to take you, his friend, in to dine?

I suppose he thought I was his friend.

In short you went in to dine with King?

Yes.

Recollect; you are sure this was the third day of the poll?

Quite sure.

Recollect yourself?

I do recollect that was the day I dined there.

With thirty people?

I suppose so.

A regular dinner, joints of meat that day, not brandy and water—all those things?

Yes.

What hour did you dine?

I cannot tell; I think about two o'clock.

The poll was going on all this time?

I cannot tell.

Do you know the poll never closed till six o'clock?

I suppose it might.

Are you not speaking of that treat that was given by either the Corporation or the Draper's company before the election?

I do not say whose treat it was, for I cannot give any account.

I ask you whether they were not treats given at different public houses on that same day, whatever the day was, have you not heard of it?

I don't know; I never was at the treat.

You are an inhabitant of Coventry.—I ask you from the report of the town on that day or about that time, did you not hear that treats were given at different houses upon that day?

No; I did not.

You did not know that any where?

No, I did not know of any, because I was not at any; I never enquired about it.

Have you not heard, and did you not know that other Freemen and persons beside yourself had been feasted in different parts of the town?

No, I have not heard any thing of the kind.

Have you not heard since, that on that day different assemblies of Freemen dined at other public houses?

Yes, I have heard so; but I did not see it. I can only tell from public hearsay.

But you have heard so?

I heard so from different persons, that there were treats.

Was Captain Barlow there, at that time?

No.

Did you hear any mention of Captain Barlow at that time?

No.

Had you never heard of his name at that time?

No, I never heard any thing of Captain Barslow.—I do not recollect hearing his name afterwards.

After he became a candidate, you heard his name mentioned?

I heard his name mentioned when he first came into town.

But you had not heard his name mentioned, at the time you sent down to this dinner?

I never heard his name mentioned in the house.

Had you ever heard his name mentioned, before the time you sat down to this dinner?

No; I believe I did not.

On the day of the dinner, are you sure you knew what day that was?

It was the Saturday, as the poll began on the Thursday.

You say it was a general hear-say, that on he day on which you dined, their other treats were given at other houses?

I did hear so.

You have also said before this day, you had not heard of the name of Captain Barlow?

I did not hear his name mentioned in that day; I will not be certain.

You say you remember hearing his name, as soon as he came into the town?

Yes.

You had not heard of it then, upon your oath, before you sat yourself down to that dinner; had you heard of Captain Barlow's name any where?

Yes.

The witnesses examination read over to him

Witness. It is a mistake. I thought you meant whether I had heard his name mentioned in the house I had heard of it before.—I could not help hearing it when the candidate came into the town.

Now I will take it the other way.—Then you swear upon your oath, Mr. Barlow was a candidate before the day that you dined at the Crane?

Yes; I did hear of it.

You did hear of it before the day that Mr. Mullis sent for King, and that you dined with thirty people at the Crane?

Yes.

Then did you upon your oath, know before you dined that day that Captain Barlow was a candidate for the city of Coventry?

Yes.

You swear that?

Yes.

Take care what you are about, you are upon your oath?

I am sensible of that.

You know King?

Yes.

Then you know that King was one of the most determined friends that Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore could have, did you not?

No; I did not know which way he was determined.

Had you never heard him declare himself?

No; I cannot recollect that I did.

Will you try to recollect whether you ever heard King declare for whom he intended to vote?

I cannot say whether he did or not.

Then you did not know on which side King meant to vote?

No; I did not.

At this dinner, was not meat in abundance?

Yes; there was abundance of joints.

Mention what joints they were?

A hot leg of mutton.

What else did you see upon the table?

I did not take particular notice.

What number of joints were there; did the table smoke with joints?

There were a number.

How many out-votes were there?

I cannot tell.

Upon your oath was there one; and name him?

All that I knew of an out-voter, was this Morrice Walker.

So that of the thirty, those that were freemen were all notoriously resident freemen of Coventry; you know them to be so?

No; I do not say they all were.

How many may there be?

There were three or four, that I knew.

You dined at two o'clock, and sat several hours afterwards.

Yes.

Was any account of the poll brought in?

Not that I recollect.

Was there no talk about the poll?

Yes; they were talking about the poll, but

I did not listen to it.—I cannot give any account of it.

Did any body go out to poll by accident during the dinner?

I don't recollect that any body did.

Did you hear the numbers of the poll during that day?

No; I did not.

Did you leave any body drinking there?

Yes; I left a great number there, when I came away.

You left people drinking there?

Yes.

Publicly?

Yes.

It must be known to every body in the street thereabout, that this feast was going on?

I suppose it might.—I cannot tell.

Was the door locked; was there any concealment of it?

No.

The doors were open, any body might come in?

Yes.

Was there any huzzaing, or any toasts drank?

Not while I was there.

No toasts?

No.

Not the King's health?

Not any that I recollect.

Not prosperity to the corporation?

I cannot recollect any thing of the kind.

No drapers company, or any thing of that sort?

I do not recollect.

Upon your oath do you mean to say, you don't recollect what passed after dinner?

I do not.

Do you know what toast means: I do not mean toast and ale, I mean when a man gives the health of any body; was any thing of that kind done after dinner?

I did not hear any thing of the kind; I did not pay attention?

Then you have totally forgot all that passed after dinner?

I can't recollect, I find myself at a loss.—I do not recollect all that passed after dinner.

Was Mr. Jefferys there himself?

I cannot recollect whether he was there or not.—I do not think I saw Mr. Jefferys there that day.

Who did you see, did you see any waiter?

Yes; one Mr. Anglis, waited.

Mr. Mullis did not dine.

No.

Was he in the room when the dinner was served?

I did not see him.

He sent you for King?

Yes; and then he said to King "take your friend in to dine with you."

And you saw no more of Mr. Mullis?

No.

You talked about out-voters, were there any out-voters there on this day?

Only this one, Morrice Walker that I knew

Where did he come from?

He came from Banbury in Oxfordshire.

How far is that from Coventry?

About twenty-six miles.

Did you hear from the conversation, that there were any other out-voters?

No.

You was asked about treats the same day.—

I mean to ask you, if there were dinners given the same day?

I did not hear of any.

What sort of treats do you mean?

I don't know what sort of treats.—I heard there was a treat at one house and a treat at the other.

Do you mean that there were dinners?

No.

What do you mean then by treats?

I suppose they meant ale, or liquor, or victuals, without paying for it.—If a person goes for drink, or liquor, or victuals, or what not, and they did not pay for it, that is what I call a treat.

Is that what you mean by a treat, or do you mean a dinner?

That is the same.

Members.—Upon the oath you have taken, we are to understand that the party of thirty people that sat down at the dinner, they were the only people you saw in and out of the house that day?

There were several more people backwards and forwards in the kitchen.—I saw no more in the room, but those that sat down at the dinner. I believe they did not admit any body else into the room, I can't tell exactly who went in, or who went out.

What description of people went backwards and forwards in the kitchen?

I do not know whether they were customers or not.

If you was in the room at the dinner, how came you to see them going backwards and forwards?

The door was wide open, I could see them.

About three weeks before the election, do you recollect any treat being given?

I have heard talk of a treat being given, but I cannot give any account about it.

Do you know when Morris Walker came into Coventry?

No, he did not tell me; and I did not ask him.

Had he been in Coventry some time?

I do not know.

To your own knowledge, had he just arrived?

I don't know how long he had been in town.

What are you?

A plush weaver.

Do you follow your business?

Yes.

Do you live by your business only?

Yes.

Do you run of errands for people, and are paid for it?

No; I work at my business.

How came Mr. Mullis to send you for King.

I do not know.

You are not a freeman?

No.

Those freemen at the dinner, in whose interest were they.—For Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, or Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I should suppose Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

How do you know?

I cannot tell that; I saw them polling.—I heard that that was the house in the interest of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Did you hear any of them say they meant to poll for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I did not hear them say any thing about their going out to poll?

How do you know that this house was in the interest of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I heard so before I went in.

Did you hear them drink any healths?

No.

When you was in the house, did you hear the names of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys mentioned, recollect yourself?

I cannot say.—I think I did not hear their names mentioned.

In what ward is the public house?

It is in Bishop Street; and I suppose it is in Bishop Street Ward.

Were these people inhabitats of that Ward?

I cannot say.

You say there was one out-voter, Morrice Walker?

Yes.

Did you say there was no other out-voters there?

I am not certain.—I cannot tell.

Now, I ask you, how many of the company who sat down at the dinner, how many did you know.—I believe you said three or four?

I can mention these three or four.

By virtue of the oath, do you take upon you to say, you did not personally know more than three or four of the persons that sat down at the dinner?

There were several that if I had called to mind, I might have known; but it is so long since, I cannot recollect any thing particular about it, only this particular acquaintance.

If you do not recollect the names of more than four, how came your recollection to be so good as to recollect the precise day.—It was Saturday?

Because it was very remarkable: —I went

out of town on the Sunday morning, part of the way with Walker?

When did Morrice Walker poll?

The second day.

By virtue of your oath, will you swear you did not know more than three or four of the company?

I do not know that I did, I cannot say that I know any more.

Do you know Barton the inn-keeper, of Coventry?

Yes.

Do you know Mr. Watts the inn-keeper, of Coventry, who keeps the Red Lion?

I do not know that I ever saw the man in my life, although I have lived so long in Coventry.

Did you ever hear of a treat given by Mr. Barton or Mr. Watts, to the freemen of Coventry?

I do not know that I did.

Then you did not hear of it?

No; not at the time of the election.

Did you hear of a treat before the election?

No; I do not know any thing at all about that.

How long were you in Coventry before the election?

I served my time in Coventry.

Was you in Coventry for a whole year preceding the election?

Yes.

Did you ever hear of a treat given by the draper's company, before the election?

I did not hear any thing about it.

Did you or not, ever hear of any treat given by the corporation before the election?

It has been talked of publicly in the town.

You have said you heard of a treat that was

talked of publicly in the town.—Was the treat given by the corporation on the same day, or at the same time with this dinner at the Crane?

I do not know.

Did you ever hear of any treat given by the drapers company?

It has been talked of.

Was it at the same time with the dinner at the Crane, that you were at?

I have heard it talked of before.

How long before?

I cannot tell exactly.

Was it a week before, or a day before, or a month before?

It must be a week before, I think.

What street do you live in in Coventry?

I lived at Mill Lane, at the time of the election.

Is that near where Mr. Barton lives?

No.

Is that near where Mr. Watts lives?

No; it is quite a different part of the town.

Did any of the company go out of the house in order to vote, while you were at the dinner?

No.

Did any message come to the gentlemen from the booth?

I did not hear any thing of the kind.

Did you hear any of them give success to Barlow and Jefferys?

I did not hear any toasts.

Do you recollect what the conversation was about that day?

No; I cannot give any account about it.

Were you at all in liquor that day?

I had a drop, and I recollect just what I tell you.

Was you drunk or sober that day?

I cannot say I was quite sober; I was not drunk, nor I was not sober.

Were there any drunken men in company that day?

I suppose there were a great many.

How many?

I cannot tell.

Was the majority of the company drunk that day?

I cannot tell; there were plenty of liquors for all that had a mind.

Were there a number of drunken men?

I don't wish to say any thing about it.

But you must tell the whole truth.—Were there many drunken men there that day, or not?

There were many of them drunk; I do not wish to mention any thing more about it.

Who sat at the head of the table that day?

I cannot tell?

Who had the direction and management of the entertainment?

Mr. Angliss, I believe was waiter.

Who sat at the head of the table?

I did not take that notice.

Where did you sit?

I sat about the second or third from the foot of the table.

Do you know who sat at the foot of the table?

There was Mr. Walker and me, and ——— Parsons; I believe Mr. Howard took his dinner, but he waited upon the freemen.

Had you been drinking in the morning previous to going to the Crane?

No; I believe I had not had above a pint of ale with that out-voter, that came down to see me; he was apprenticed to my father.

Have you any reason to know at whose expence you dined that day?

I cannot give any account; I did not see any money pass.

Question repeated.

Mr. Mullis told Mr. King and me, to go in, he said it should not cost us any thing.

Did you understand that Mr. Mullis was to pay for the dinner?

I cannot tell; he did not say he should pay for the dinner.

Who keeps the Crane?

Mr. Squires.

Was it not as well known all over the country by the common inhabitants that were not free, as by the freemen, at the time when the treats were given by Mr. Bird's party, and by Mr. Jefferys party, previous to the election. Was it not as well known, as that there was a manufactory of ribbons, or a church in the place?

I don't know any thing about it.

Don't you know that it was perfectly well known all over Coventry, as well as if it had been done by ring of bell, that treats were given by Mr. Bird's, and Mr. Barlow's friends?

I don't know any thing about it; they might be, unknown to me.

Was you yourself present at any other treat, during the election, than this?

No; no other treat.

You are sure of that?

Not at the time of the poll.

Then this being the only treat that you was

at during the time of the poll, were there, or not, any toasts drank?

I cannot tell.

Then you mean to say, that being at a table, with only thirty people, you will not take upon yourself to say, whether there were any toasts given?

I suppose they might drink to the members; but I did not take any notice.

Then you say you did not hear any toasts drank, that is your answer, is it?

I cannot satisfy you, for I did not take that notice.

You cannot tell then, whether there were or not any toasts drank during that day?

No.

Were there any cockades worn at the dinner?

No; I do not recollect seeing any.

During the election, did you ever go to the Hustings—the poll booth?

Yes; I did.

Did you go there almost every day?

No, I was at work the best part of the day; I might go at times, now and then.

How many times do you think you went to the poll booth, during the election?

I might go a dozen times; I cannot tell exactly.

Do you think you went once every day?

Yes; or more.

Did you use to stay there long, when you went there?

Sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter, according as I wanted to do business.

Did you go there the first day the poll began?

Yes; I did.

Did you go there the second day the poll began?

I was there many times; I cannot tell exactly.

Do you know whether you went there the third day after the poll began?

Yes; I was.

What time was you there on the third day after the poll; was it in the morning at ten, in the afternoon at five, or two, or what?

I cannot tell; I went by with this Morris Walker.

Did you go to the poll booth on the day in which you went to this dinner?

We went by that way to go to the Crane.

Were the people following at that time?

Yes; about eleven o'clock.

Where did you go to after dinner?

I went home.

Did you go past the polling booth then?

I believe not.

Then you did not go the same way home, that you went to dinner in the morning?

No, I believe not.

Did you hear any noise in the street that night?

There was a noise in the street every night; there was a noise in the street before the election.

Do you call the election the time of the poll being taken, or the canvass previous to the beginning of the poll?

I suppose the election begins after the writs are out.

Then you consider the time of the election to begin from the time the writ is out?

I understand it so.

Have you had any conversation with any

person respecting the evidence you were to give this day; and remember you are upon your oath?

Yes.

With whom?

I met my master, Mr. Harris; I brought a letter to him, and I talked with him.

Any body else?

Yes, to a gentleman at Mr. Moore's; I went to take a letter there.

Any body else?

No.

Did any thing pass between you and any of those gentlemen?

They only told me what was in the book, what they thought they might swear me to.

Then you knew what you was coming to be examined to?

Yes; I expected that was what I should be examined upon, what was read to me.

You said you knew it was the third day of the poll, because you went with Morris Walker out of town?

Yes; that was on the Sunday.

How long did you stay out of town?

I only went out of town about a mile, or a mile and a half, and came back directly.

THOMAS ANGLISS, *called in and sworn.*

What business are you?

A leather dresser.

Are you a voter of Coventry?

Yes.

Who did you vote for at the last election?

I was not of age at the last election.

You are now a freeman?

Yes.

Was you employed during the election?

I was so far employed, that if I saw any body that would poll, to get them to poll for our party.

What party?

The corporation party.

Who employed you for that purpose?

George Ayres for one, and several others.

During the time of the poll, was you at the Fleur de Lis?

Yes; many times.

Did you see many people there?

Yes; a great many people.

I mean freemen of Coventry?

Yes, I saw many freemen of Coventry; I saw some that are in the hall now.

Did any of them live at Coventry?

Yes.

What were they doing?

Drinking mostly, and eating; but mostly drinking.

Did you eat and drink there?

Yes; several times.

Did you pay for what you had?

No.

Did you see any body else pay for what they had?

No.

By what authority did you get it without paying?

I used to go in and have what I liked, and I was never asked any question, and never paid any thing.

Do you remember being at Eld's, the Windmill?

Yes; several times.

During the time people were polling?

Yes; I have been at Eld's several times during the poll.

Did you see any freemen there?

Yes; I saw several that were freemen, and several that were not freemen; they had what they pleased, and went away without paying for it, for any thing that I saw.

Was you ever in Saint Mary's Hall?

Yes.

Who did you see there?

I saw Alderman Howlette there; I went to tell him there were two freemen in a Blue House, and I wanted to get them out.

Two Yellows, I suppose?

Yes; I went to tell them there were two Yellows there, and I could not go in there.

Why?

I could not have any thing to drink there without paying for it; and Alderman Howlette gave me a shilling to get something to drink, and get them out.

Did he say any thing?

He told me it was against law; but I must not say any thing about it.

Are you sure of that?

Yes.

Did you go and get them out?

No; I was afraid of going in for fear I should get well lick'd.

Do you know Clayton's house?

Yes, the Windmill: there are two Windmills.

Did you go there to have any thing to eat and drink?

Yes, at night after the poll was closed.

Did you use to see freemen there too?

Yes; it was a great house of call for freemen at night.

Did you see the freemen eat and drink there too?

I have been with them eating and drinking.

Did you ever pay any thing there?

No.

Did the company you have seen there pay any thing?

Not that I ever saw, there were several that went in with me.

Did they pay any thing?

No.

Do you know King's house?

Yes.

What is the sign?

I believe it is the Falcon, but I don't know.

Where is it situated?

Next to Mr. Merridew's, at Cross Cheaping.

Did you drink there?

Yes; I used to have any thing I liked there; it was very handy to the booth.

Did you pay any thing there?

No; I never paid any thing at none of the houses during the election.

Did you ever see any body else pay during the election?

No; unless a man went into a different party house, then he must pay.

Do you know Squires's house?

Yes.

You seem to know most of the houses?

Yes; I know most of the houses and most of the people there; Mr. Squires's house is at the top of Bishop-street?

Did you know a man of the name of Anstey?

Not to my recollection, I do not.

Do you remember, if you was at that house on the second or third day of the poll?

No.

Was you ever at the King's Head?

Yes.

Who keeps the King's Head?

Mr. Soden.

Did you know Mr. Barlow?

Yes.

Did you ever see him at Mr. Soden's?

Yes, I have seen Mr. Barlow there, when there have been London voters there; they used to fetch him from the booth.

Did you ever hear him give any orders about them?

I saw him go into the room, and make a speech, but I was on the outside, and could not understand what he said.

You don't know who was in the room then besides the people you speak of?

I don't know the people's names that were there.

None of your own neighbours?

No, they were men that came as out voters.

You seem to have been every thing but purse holder; you was employed to bring in all the voters you could?

Yes.

Are you a partner in any of these houses to know any thing about their accounts?

No.

You say you could not go into the opposite houses without paying?

I could not.

I believe that is the law of Coventry, is it not?

I believe it is.

They sometimes make you pay in flesh, in beating you most severely?

I took care not to go in.

You put the poor Alderman's illegal shilling into your pocket, and did not go into the house?

Yes; I thought I had a right to it. I had had a great deal of trouble.

You now and then peeped into the Blue House?

No.

Yes, you must have become peeping Tom, or how come you to know these two Yellows were there?

I saw them go in.

People were very sober and steady in all the Blue Houses?

We did not stay about the Blue Houses more than we could help for fear of getting hided.

They never let you come near enough to let you see what was going on?

No.

But you have seen them come staggering out, crying Bird for ever?

Yes, hundreds of times.

Chearful and a little drunk?

They used to say they got drunk with their own money?

All on Mr. Bird's side were rich people, they were all able to pay.

I don't know, they used to help one another I believe.

That was when they were drunk I suppose?

Yes.

Members:—Did you wait at a dinner at Squire's at any time?

No.

Nor assist in carrying a dinner into the room?

No; I have a brother who was over-looker there.

The witness withdrew.

THOMAS ORTON, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

No. 10, King Street, Spital Fields.

What business are you?

A weaver.

Do you remember the time of the Coventry election in July last?

Yes.

Do you know Mr. Clarke of Aldermanbury?

Yes.

Did you see Mr. Clarke during that election, in London?

Yes, on the 10th of July at his own house in Aldermanbury?

How happen'd it that you was there?

I went there upon particular business to know the state of the poll the day before.

Are you a voter of Coventry?

No.

Did you attend at Mr. Clarke's to assist him in any part of the business of the election?

On the 10th of July in the afternoon.

Did you attend at any time after the 10th of July, at Mr. Clarke's?

Yes, the 11th and 12th; sometimes at his house, and sometimes at the Hoxton Coffee-house.

How were you employed, and how was Mr. Clarke employed?

He found the money for the people that went down into the country.

Did you see any body besides Mr. Clarke acting in this way?

Mr. Jones, Mr. Butler, and the younger Mr. Whitwell.

Do you remember Mr. Barton being there?

Yes.

A man that keeps the Salutation at Coventry?

Yes, he was there.

Had you any room at the coffee-house?

There was a committee sitting there, Mr. Whitwell and Mr. Butler were there by Mr. Clarke's orders; they were there to look after the freemen.

For what interest was this?

Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Jointly?

Jointly.

Do you remember Butler being sent by Mr. Clarke and Mr. Whitwell to the Hoxton coffee-house?

Yes.

What Mr. Whitwell was this?

Of Coventry; Alderman Whitwell's son: Mr. Butler was sent to see that the freemen were taken care of, and had what they wanted, that is eating and drinking.

Did you see freemen there eating and drinking?

Yes, several.

Were they London freemen?

Yes, people residing in London; they were constantly there the whole of the day, or the best part of the day, till the carriages were ready for them in the evening.

Had they dinners?

Yes, legs of mutton, steaks, ale, gin, brandy, rum, and those things; Mr. Clarke was not there, but these young men were sent by Mr. Clarke.

Did you hear Mr. Clarke say so?

Yes.

That you swear to have passed?

Yes.

How many of them were there at a time?

Sometimes thirty or forty people, some freemen and some non-freemen; I cannot tell how many of each.

Did any of them pay for any thing?

I cannot say; I did not see any money passed after the first three or four days of the poll, as the poll began on Thursday, the liquor was more fluent; before that the people paid for what they had.

Do you know how the change took place from the paying to the not paying?

They wanted something to drink, and Mr. Jones being a refractory man, would not give them any thing to drink till Friday.

Who is Mr. Jones?

The man that kept the coffee-house.

Did that continue Saturday, Sunday, and Monday?

Yes, there might be fifty or sixty freemen go from there in the course of those three days.

Did they come there for the purpose of going away, or did they stay there?

They stopped there the best part of the day, and in the evening they were taken to the Swan with Two Necks to go with the Liverpool coach—every coach that went off stopped at Mr. Clarke's house, the committee, in Aldermanbury.

Do you remember any application being made by Barton to Clark for any purpose?

To go to Portsmouth.

Was you present?

Yes.

Did he give it him?

I did not see any money pass, and whether he went to Portsmouth, or whether he went to Coventry, I cannot tell.

Did you hear any observation?

The observation was this from Mr. Barton, that if there were voters at Portsmouth, and they voted on the other side, we might lose the election by it; Mr. Clarke grumbled; and said it might cost as much, as the former election, it might cost the gentlemen ten thousand pounds.

Do you know Jones that kept the coffee-house?

Yes.

Do you know any thing of them, whether he is a man that could afford to give away to those men what they had?

I should think not.

What situation is he in?

He is a weaver.—He was cleared by the insolvent act from the Bench before he kept the Hoxton coffee-house.

I need hardly ask you if you think an insolvent debtor was likely to give away money or monies worth in this way?

I should think not.

Are you an intimate friend of Mr. Clarke's?

Not intimate.

I fancy this was the first time he trusted you at all?

Yes.

You tried to make yourself worthy of his trust first of all, by putting yourself in his way; he did not come to you?

I went to him.

You did him the favour to go to him to be a spy upon him?

Not a spy.

What are you, if you are not a spy upon Mr. Clarke?

Not a spy at all, not in the least; I come to say that that is just and right.

But in truth you went and intruded yourself into Mr. Clarke's friendship?

No, I was asked by Mr. Butler first.

Mr. Butler is a boy of sixteen, is not he?

He is seventeen.

Is he not an apprentice in London?

I do not know.

But you know he is young?

Yes.

Mr. Whitwell, do you know that he is a young apprentice in London too?

I do not know.

Was he young?

Yes.

Whereabouts his age; he is sixteen, and an apprentice in London, is he not?

I do not know.

These were Mr. Clarke's notable agents?

They went and paid the coaches, and paid other things.

Upon your oath, did you see either of them pay any thing?

Yes, at different places in Islington and Holborn.

What did they pay for?

Liquor of different descriptions.

Did you drink with them?

Yes; sometimes at my own expence, and sometimes at their expence.

What inducement had they to give you liquor, you was not a voter?

No.

Then it was an act of generosity in these young lads?

Yes.

You said Mr. Clarke had the advice of several of his friends at Aldermanbury?

There were no others at Aldermanbury, but Mr. Jones, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Whitwell and Mr. Butler.

These young lads went to the Hoxton Coffee House, and there they assembled?

Yes.

You saw the people pay on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday?

No, they did not pay any thing at all there.

I understand you, that till a certain time they paid?

The voters did till Friday, there was now and then a few pots of porter given; but after the poll began, there was more liquor.

These people were packed off in the Liverpool coaches, in the evenings?

Yes.

Did you act at all in the business?

Yes.

To assist Mr. Clarke as a friend?

Yes, certainly.

Did you go and look for coaches, and pick up people?

Occasionally I did.

These men were sent off, as has been always the custom to send people off, in coaches?

It has been the case.

Were not other coaches filled with voters on the other side; you know nothing of Mr. Bird's coaches?

I look upon it, there were coaches employed on both sides.

As fast as they could, and as full as they could?

Yes.

Spital Fields was a great rendevous for the Coventry connection?

Yes.

And there were canvassers all about to get what votes they could on both sides?

Yes.

Do you mean to say, you have ever seen the accounts of Jones, of the Hoxton Coffee House?

No.

Do you mean to say that you staid at Jones's for the purpose of seeing who did pay, and who did not?

I cannot say who paid.

Had you any interest at that time to discover who did pay, and who did not?

No; but I know the orders of Mr. Clarke were for the men to be taken care of, and then to be sent down.

The day they were sent down they had a dinner?

They had a dinner the day before, for what I know.

Did you make any particular observations, so as to enable you to tell me how many, and who the voters were, that dined on the Monday?

I can tell you some of them?

Can you tell me all?

No.

Can you tell me all that dined on any one day?

No.

Then can you say who went one day and who went another?

No.

They filled the coaches and sent them off as fast as they could?

Yes; and some went on foot.

Do you happen to know a house called the Red Lion?

Yes.

Who keeps that?

William Wilson, in Phenix-Street, Spital Fields.

Did you happen to be there during the election?

Yes.

Did you ever see any body there?

Yes; I use the house myself.

Did you see any freemen of Coventry there?

Yes.

In whose interest?

Some for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Upon your oath, was that not Mr. Bird's house?

It was the election before last, and the election before that.

Upon your oath, was it not the house of Mr. Bird at this election?

Yes, it was.

From thence Mr. Bird's voters went?

Some of them from there, and some from other places.

You were there with Mr. Bird's people, and you were at Hoxton with Mr. Clarke's people?

Yes.

Was it curiosity to know what was going forward on both sides, that you went to Mr. Bird's house?

I used the house.

When was it that you first told this about Mr. Clarke?

Before the election was over.

Who did you tell it to?

To two or three gentlemen.

Name them?

Mr. Miles was one, he is in court.

Any body else?

Mr. Mason of Printer Street, Mr. Wilson of the Lion happened to be in at the time.

What was it that particularly induced you to tell what passed at Mr. Clarke's?

On the Monday evening Mr. Jones was affronting the freemen, and using them extremely ill, in consequence of that a scuffle ensued between me and Mr. Jones.

How was Mr. Jones using them ill?

The freemen's wives were applying to Mr. Jones for money, which he refused to give them at that time.

You thought it was hard to refuse them the money, so you began quarrelling with Mr. Jones, for not giving the freemen's wives money?

I had lent him half a guinea for that purpose before, and I was asking him for it.

Barton applied to Clarke for money to go to Portsmouth?

Yes.

And Mr. Clarke said the expence was so great, that if he pursued the voters that distance it might cost as much as the former election?

Yes; they found money afterwards.

Was it a fact, or not, that this man refused Barton the money on that account?

Yes.

How do you know it was settled afterafterwards?

I do not know how it was settled afterwards, I know Barton went to Portsmouth.

What do you mean by saying this man refused Barton the money from economical motives; you said it was afterwards settled. Do you know any thing but the fact, of Barton going to Portsmouth. Did you see Clarke give him any money; you was employed by Mr. Clarke to take care of the voters?

Yes; I was employed to go for a man of the name of Wootton.

Where did you find him?

He was at Mr. Clarke's house, Mr. Clarke had given him a one pound note, that was the reason why they asked me to go after him; I went to the Swan with Two Necks and found him, and then he said he would fetch his things; I took a coach and went with him to a public house in Mint Street, in the Borough, and there I stopped two hours, then he said he had not money enough. I said what have you done with the one pound note, and he said he had taken things out of pawn with it, and I gave him another one pound note; I changed it and gave him a half guinea, and a seven shilling piece, half a crown, and two shillings.

Was you repaid that money?

Yes; Mr. Clarke repaid it me.

What is Wootton?

A cabinet-maker; I have known him from a child.

What did you give him the note for?

To serve Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Was it for any expences he was to incur?

It was not for any expence.

Was he to pay his own journey down?

No; the money was given him by Mr Clarke, to get his things out.

How do you know that?

Mr. Clarke told me himself; Mr. Clarke paid me a one pound note, half a crown, and two shillings.

Where did you meet with Wootton?

I have known him twenty eight years.

He was an out-voter?

He was an out-voter.

When was it the one pound note was given?

When he made application to Mr. Clarke, he said he would not go without money.

Who was present when he said this?

Mr. Butler was there, and Mr. Whitwell was there.

Upon what day was this, was it before the election began, or after?

This was on the 10th of July.

At Mr. Clarke's house?

At Mr. Clarke's house.

In what room?

Where the gentlemen were generally sitting to do business.

Whereabouts?

In the warehouse.

A number of people round him?

Yes.

He spoke loud?

I do not know that it was spoke so particularly loud. I did not see him give the note, but I know it was given.

I ask you again, was this note given in your presence?

No.

Then all that you know about this note, was about what Clarke told you.

Yes.

Where was it Clarke told you he had given Wootton this note?

In the warehouse.

Was it in a whisper?

He said he thought the man was in liquor, and asked me to go and take care of him.

He gave him the note when he was in liquor?

I suspect so.

And having given him the note, he sent you to take care of this drunken man.—What did Mr. Clarke tell you to do with him?

To bring him back there in the evening.

You did not see the note?

I saw it changed.

Where was it changed?

At a public-house, in Mint Street, in the Borough.

Was it a bank note, or how?

It was a bank of England one pound note.

Other people in the warehouse might hear this as well as you?

They possibly might; Mr. Butler I know heard it.

And Mr. Whitwell?

Yes; he was there, and might have heard it.

And you went in consequence with Wootton?

Yes.

You changed the note?

I changed a note of my own afterwards.

Was any thing said about his things in Mr. Clarke's presence?

Yes.

What did he say to Mr. Clarke?

Wootton said he could not vote without some things to put on.

Was that before or after the note was given?

Before.

And it was in the hearing of these persons?

They were there.

When Wootton returned, you brought him back?

Yes; I brought him back in a coach.

Was he drunk then?

Yes.

What became of him then?

He got away that night, I fetched him again on the Sunday, and he was drunk then. I and Mr. Essex, led him to the Hoxton Coffee House on the Sunday; and he went down to Coventry that night.

Members.—Did you know Mr. Clarke before you went to him to enquire the state of the poll?

Yes; I knew him at Coventry.

Had he resided in London long?

Some years.

Did you offer your services as an agent to Mr. Barlow?

Mr. Clarke asked me to take care of this man.

Did you offer your services?

I offered myself, if I couldbe of any service.

Were you desired by any person, and by whom, to offer your services?

No person; it was of my own mind.

Have you had any conversation with any of Mr. Bird's and Mr. Moore's friends before you went?

Not upon that subject.

Did they know of your intention of offering your services?

No.

Did they consider you as their friend?

Not then.

At what time did they consider you as their friend?

Some time after the election was over.

During the continuance of the poll, Mr.

Bird and Mr. Moore's committee did not consider you as their friend?

On the Tuesday evening before the election was over, they asked me a few questions, and I resolved them; it was concerning this business, when I told them about Wootton, they thought I might be of some service.

Did you offer your services to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, in the same manner as you did to Mr. Barlow?

No.

Then what reason had they to consider you as their friend?

The Red Lion is a house I always use, I was sitting in the tap-room, and was saying the ill usage I had received from Mr. Jones.

Did Wilson then ask you to be his friend?

No.

Who did?

Nobody in particular; I was not asked at all to be their friend then.

When were you asked to be their friend?

Not till the election was over.

Did you from the Thursday that they began to consider you as their friend, did you do any act of kindness for them?

Yes; I did.

What were the acts of kindness you did for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I did not run about for them.

Question repeated.

No further than going as far as the Lion, and back again, having a pint of porter and paying for it; that is all the friendship I did for them.

What was the one act of friendship you said you did for them?

The biggest act of friendship I did, was go-

ing to Mr. Mason's in Printer's Street, and asking him to go to Coventry, to vote for Mr. Bird.

Who desired you to go to Mason?

It was myself that went, nobody desired me. I am very intimate with Mr. Mason, and I went to him.

Did you go of your own accord to ask Mason to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Was that the one act of friendship that you did?

No; the other act of friendship that I did was, I went as far as Chatham, but could not find any body there.

What did you go to Chatham for?

I went to find freemen to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore.

Who desired you to go?

I went with Mr. Vick.

Was Mr. Vick employed as a friend of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore's?

Yes.

Did you see him at the Red Lion?

Yes.

Was there any committee at the Red Lion?

I do not know of any committee.

Upon your oath, do you know of any committee belonging to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that sat in London?

I do not.

Who were the friends that acted for Mr. Bird?

Mr. Robert Moy, Mr. Dunkley, Mr. Mason.

Who else?

I do not recollect the names of all the freemen.

Did they act in the same manner for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that Mr. Clarke did for Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

They did not act in the same manner; what freemen they got, they took to the Red Lion, and then to the place where the coaches went from.

Did they get any thing to eat and drink at the Red Lion, before they went off?

No.

Do you swear, that the freemen sent to Coventry from the Red Lion, got nothing to eat and drink before they were sent off?

I am positive they did not; but what they paid for.

Did they at any other inn, get any thing to eat or drink?

I cannot say.

Do you know any thing of it?

No.

Did you eat or drink at the Red Lion?

I drank there every day at my own expence.

Did you pay for every thing out of your own pocket?

Yes.

Who paid your expences to Chatham?

I did myself.

There and back again?

Yes.

By virtue of your oath, were you repaid those expences of going to Chatham and back again?

I never was.

How much did it cost you?

There were three of us, my expences were about sixteen or seventeen shillings; the whole

expences were about two pounds ten shillings, or two pounds twelve shillings.

Were the others repaid?

Not that I know of; I never was repaid.

How much of your own money did you spend?

Sixteen or Seventeen shillings.

How long were you there?

Only one day.

Who went with you?

Mr. Vick and Mr. Walker.

Did you see Mr. Vick and Mr. Walker at the Red Lion?

Walker uses the house, he lives just opposite, and takes victuals in his hand from home frequently.

Do you expect to have your expences to Chatham repaid you?

I do not.

Do you know Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

I never saw him till within this fortnight or three weeks.

You are no freeman of Coventry?

No; I was born there, but am not a freeman.

Jones refused to give the freemen's wives any thing?

Yes.

Did you see any of the voter's wives come?

I have seen voter's wives in the tap-room, at the Red Lion; the wives of voters that used the house.

Did they ask for money?

Not to my knowledge.

I wish to know when you first saw Wootton?

At Mr. Clarke's house.

The same day that you went with him?

Yes; on the Saturday.

Was it in the morning or evening?

In the afternoon.

Did you hear him apply for the guinea?

No; I went in, and Mr. Clarke asked me to go after him, for he had given him a pound note, and he was drunk.

And then you went with him to Mint Street, and changed the note at the public-house?

Yes.

What public-house was it?

I do not recollect the sign.

Was it on the right hand side of Mint Street, as you come from Mr. Clarke's?

On the right hand side, going down Red Cross Street, I think it was.

Was this public house that you went into, on the right or left hand side of the street, going from Mr. Clarke's?

On the right side, it is a corner-house, and stands in a girt.

Where was it you gave him half-a-guinea?

At the same public-house, where I had changed the note, I gave him the half-a-guinea; he went away, and returned in about two hours, and I gave him a seven shilling piece.

Was you in that public house all the time?

Yes.

Was he living at that public-house?

I believe it was a public-house that he constantly frequented.

So the moment you got into Mr. Clarke's house, he had so high an opinion of you, that he trusted you with all his secrets about the voters?

No; he did not trust me with all his secrets.

How long had you been in when he desired you to look after Wootton?

Not two minutes.

Should you not have been glad if there had been a third party, that you might have served them too?

No.

Had you any authority from Mr. Clarke to pay that half-guinea, and seven shilling piece?

No.

That you did voluntarily.

Yes; and Mr. Clarke repaid me on the Sunday morning.

Withdrew.

THOMAS WHITMORE, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Bethnal Green.

What are you?

A Weaver.

Are you a voter for Coventry?

No.

Do you know the Hoxton Coffee-house.

Yes.

Do you know who keeps it?

I do not know who keeps it now.

Did you use that house at the time of the election for Coventry?

Yes.

Do you know any of the Coventry freemen?

Yes.

Did you see any of them there?

Yes; on the Sunday and the Monday.

During the time the poll was going on?

It was on the 10th of July and the 11th.

What were they doing there?

Drinking

What time in the day?

In the afternoon; after dinner.

Where there many of them?

There might be ten or a dozen, I cannot justly say.

Did you see them go away from there?

Yes; I went with several of them.

Do you happen to know if they went to Coventry that night?

Yes; I saw them on the coach.

Did they pay any thing when they went out?

Not that I saw.

Did they ask for any thing?

No.

Who did you see there?

I saw one Carter there, belonging to the 42d regiment, I think.

Any body else?

Mr. John Thorpe a freeman of Coventry, went off by the same coach.

Any other?

Mr. Saunders; but he did not go off with the coach.—I do not know what became of him.

Is he a freeman of Coventry?

He is;—he conducted them to the coach I believe.

Did you see him drinking with the rest?

Yes.

How long was you there?

About one hour.

Did you leave any behind you?

No; they mostly went to the coach.

You do not know who keeps the coffee-house?

Not at this time, Mr. Jones kept it then?

What is become of Jones: do you know?

He lives in London, at Bethnal Green, I believe.

They went in the coach, and travelled all night?

I went in the evening and saw several of them in the coach.

Withdrew.

ABRAHAM JOHNSON, *called in and sworn.*

What are you?

A weaver.

Where do you live?

In Mile End, New Town.

Do you know the Hoxton coffee-house that was kept by Jones?

Yes.

Was you ever there?

Yes.

Often?

Yes.

Are you a freeman of Coventry?

I am.

Did you go down to Coventry last summer?

Yes.

Was you at Jones's more than once?

I was at Jones's several times.

During the time of the election at Coventry?

Yes, I dare say twenty times.

What did you do there so often?

I went to have a drop of beer.

Do you mean by twenty times that you went different days?

Yes; may be twice in a day may be twenty times in a week.

You mean the week of the election?

Yes.

Did you go to Coventry?

Yes.

At what time did you go down?

I voted the third day of polling.

What day of the week was that?

That was on the Thursday.

What day of the week did you go down from London?

On the Friday morning at four o'clock; I polled on the Saturday following.

Which week was it then you went backwards and forwards to the Hoxton coffee-house?

The beginning of that week, and the week before that.

You went constantly you say?

Yes.

When you got this beer, did you use to see other people there?

A great many.

Did you see the same people there very often, or only once?

I saw the same sort of people there one time and another.

People that you know, who lived in London, voters for Coventry?

Yes.

Did you see the same men more than once?

Yes.

You are sure of that?

I am quite sure of it.

Many people that you knew?

A great many; sometimes there might have been one hundred, I cannot tell.

Was that down to the Friday that you set off?

On the Friday morning that I set off to go to vote, I was at the Hoxton coffee-house on the Thursday.

Who did you vote for?

Mr. Moore and Mr. Bird.

Where did you go from on Friday morning at four o'clock?

From somewhere near Little Britain.—I went with the Northampton coach.

Did you pay for this beer?

No; I had no money to pay.

Did not they ask you for the money?

No.

Did your friends get beer upon the same terms?

I do not know that they paid for it.—I cannot tell

You did not pay for your's?

No.

When was the last time before you went down, that you was at the Hoxton coffee-house?

The day before; Thursday, about dinner time.

You filled yourself pretty well before you set off?

Yes, but I kept myself sober.

Between Hoxton and Coventry.—I suppose you neither eat nor drank?

Yes, I eat and drank before I got down to Coventry.

Did you take a place in the coach?

An acquaintance of mine took it for me.

And having no money I suppose an acquaintance paid for you too?

Yes, I borrowed some money.

Now mind you are upon your oath, you borrowed money to pay for your place in the Northampton coach?

Yes.

You have paid that money back again, have you?

The money is paid back again.

How much did you borrow?

I borrowed a pound to pay my expences.

Of whom did you borrow it?

An acquaintance of mine.

Who did you borrow it of?

I borrowed it of one Samuel Jackson, a weaver.

Is he a freeman of Coventry?

Yes.

Was this a pound note or a guinea?

It was twenty shillings; in halfpence and all amounting to a pound.

Did you give a note for this to Jackson?

He knew my principle, and took my word; he knew I should pay him again.

How much did you pay for your fare; did you go outside or inside?

Outside?

How much did you pay?

I gave the money to an acquaintance who paid the fare.

You don't know what was paid for the fare?

I cannot tell you how much.

Did that acquaintance you gave the money to travel in the coach?

No, he did not travel with me.

Who paid for the meat and drink you had on the road?

I paid sometimes myself, and other people paid sometimes.

Because if you gave your acquaintance a pound you had no money?

I had the change out of the pound note.

How much?

I suppose about five shillings; I did not borrow any more.

When you came to Coventry how did you pay for your meat and drink there?

I had a relation at Coventry that kept me.

How did you get from Northampton to Coventry?

I walked to Daventry, and had a bit of supper there; and walked two miles beyond Dunchurch in the morning, and then I got to Coventry.

How late on the Thursday evening was it that you determined to vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

It was on Thursday when I was at Hoxton coffee-house having a pint of beer, and I went away the next morning.

You was tired of your good fare?

Yes, I was tired.

Tired of what?

Of eating and drinking.

And you went to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, who never gave a bit of meat, or a drop of beer to any of their voters?

I did not mind that.

Did you like to go to people that gave you nothing?

I found a friend in the city of Coventry.

Who was that?

A relation of mine.

You was not at Mr. Bird's house?

No, I was at a private house.

You did not see any of Mr. Bird's people there?

No.

You did not speak to Mason, or any person employed by Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

No.

You never made it known to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore's agents, that you should vote for them?

No.

And who brought you back again from Coventry?

I came up in the Birmingham waggon.

Who paid for your fare?

I paid for it.

You had a friend in the city of Coventry that lent you money there?

Yes.

How much might they lend you there?

I believe I received two pounds.

From a friend?

An own relation of mine that has got hundreds; and he said if I would come down again he would give me more. He was very glad to see me, and I was very glad to see him.

Who was your relation at Coventry?

John Johnson.

Where does he live?

At the bottom of Gosford Street, near the bridge.

Withdrew.

Adjourned till To-morrow morning Ten o'clock.

Saturday 5th March, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

Ann Humphries; called in and sworn.

Where do you live?

In Well Street, Coventry.

Do you know Mr. Hewett, who keeps the Fleur de Lis?

Perfectly well.

Do you remember being there at the last election?

Yes; I cooked and waited, and assisted in any thing there was to do in the house.

Do you remember whether a good many people frequented the house during the election?

Yes.

How many, and what description of people?

There were a great many; I cannot tell who they were, they were Coventry voters, and London voters.

At Hewett's?

At Hewett's.

What did they do there?

They eat and drank, breakfasted, dined, and supped, many of them.

The London voters and the Coventry voters?

Yes; from the beginning of the election till after the chairing.

Do you remember seeing Alderman Carter in the house?

Very seldom.—I do not know Alderman Carter, but I had heard his name.

Do you know Alderman Williamson?

I do not know that I should know him;

there was a gentleman that was called Alderman Williamson.

Did he see these people?

He was backwards and forwards sometimes but not very often.

What did he do when he came there?

I did not see him do any thing.

Did you see Alderman Perkins there?

He was there every day; he attended there at ten o'clock.

What was he doing?

I do not know; there was three rooms kept for him and the gentlemen freemen. Mr. Hewett desired me to get them ready by ten o'clock, his son was there backwards and forwards, mostly every day.

Did you see him in the room where the gentlemen freemen were?

Yes.

Did he eat and drink with them?

Mostly, but not always.

Where did he dine generally?

Sometimes in the parlour, and sometimes up stairs.

With the Landlord do you mean?

No, with the freemen; when he dined up stairs he had seldom above two or three with him, and sometimes only his son.

Did you ever see him, when he and his son were together, alone?

Yes.

What sort of a room was it?

I saw him and his son writing.

Did you see that more than once?

Yes; more than once; I am sure I have.

Did you ever hear Mr. Perkins give any order for eating and drinking?

Yes; he has ordered me to fetch liquor, and I have handed it round commonly after dinner.

What sort of liquors did you serve by his orders?

Sometimes brandy and sometimes gin. I do not know that he ordered me to fetch any gin, but brandy he has.

You remember that?

Yes.

Do you know whether the gentlemen freemen paid for what they had?

I never saw them pay for any thing.

Did you see them go away, after they had dinner and drink?

Yes.

You did not see any body pay?

No.

Did any body ask them for pay?

No.

How many do you think there might be?

I have waited upon, I think, about twenty.

Was there dinners every day?

We had cooking all day, breakfast and dinner; those that chose meat for breakfast had it, and those who chose tea had it; I cooked the meat in general.

And you waited upon them now and then?

Yes, very often.

Do you remember Egglington, of Thurlaston, being there?

Yes.

Egglington and his wife?

Yes; they were there near a week.

Cross-Examined.

You were a servant there?

Yes.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

Elizabeth Gupwell, called in and sworn.

You are the daughter of Mr. Freeman, who keeps the Jolly Weavers?

Daughter in Law.

You was there during the Coventry election?

Yes.

Did the freemen of Coventry come a good deal to the election?

Yes.

You saw the freemen there?

Yes.

Do you know Mr. Mullis, the late mayor?

I do.

Did you see him during the election?

Yes.

During the time the poll was going on?

Yes.

Was he among the freemen when he came there?

Yes; he went into the room where the freemen sat, I and heard him say he would never sell them.

Did you hear him say any thing else?

No.

Was he often there during the election?

I never saw him but once.

As he came out of the parlour did Mr. Freeman apply to him for any directions, or say any thing to him?

My father asked Mr. Mullis how he was to act; Mr. Mullis said, never do you mind, you go on as usual, we will see that you are righted: I did not hear him say any thing more.

Did your father tell Mr. Mullis what the freemen had had?

He did not.

[Witness ordered to withdraw.]

Mr. Const produced a suit of the persons who received the four pounds on the 17th day of October last.

Thomas Barton called in again and sworn.

Members.—Are you a member of the council?

I am.

I do not ask if you were present when any money was subscribed; but had you heard of any purse being made, before you went to canvas for voters.

I did not.

Upon your oath had you never heard ofa purse being made?

No.

Have you never heard that Captain Barlow had deposited a sum of money?

There was a current report that Captain Barlow would spend 10,000l.

I ask you, upon your oath, have you not heard, (I do not care from whom), that Capt. Barlow had subscribed 1000l.?

No.

Had you heard he gave a note for 1000l.?

No.

Have you never heard that Mr. Woodcock had discounted a note for 1000l.?

I never heard that the books had been examined till since the election.

Did you know that the corporation had subscribed a sum of money towards the expences of the election?

I have heard such a report, I do not know it.

Did you hear in whose hands the money was?

No.

Had you heard that Mr Jefferys had subscribed any thing towards the expences of the election?

I understood that he would not.

Had you, or had you not, heard that Mr. Jefferys had subscribed any thing towards the expences of the election?

I heard say that he would.

Do you recollect hearing the sum that he would subscribe?

There was a report that he would subscribe 1000l.

Was there any report of that sort respecting Captain Barlow?

It was said he would spend 10,000l. and that he was a man of large fortune.

Did you hear that Mr. Dickens had paid a part of that sum?

I heard of it.

I ask you, upon your oath, if you would have incurred the expence you did of near 300l. unless you had previously heard that Captain Barlow was a man of fortune, and Mr. Jefferys had subscribed 1000l.?

I certainly would, or more, in confidence that I should by somebody be repaid.

Upon your oath, did not you rely upon that circumstance of having been paid the expences at former elections, as an assurance, as a ground for belief, that you would be paid the expences of this election?

I did.

You had acted as agent upon former occasions; you have been repaid the expences you incurred; and upon that you grounded your confidence, that you would be paid for this?

I never was an agent.

That you stepped forwards and gave your assistance?

Yes.

Who repaid you upon former occasions?

Mr. Bird's principal agent.

What interest did he stand upon at that time?

The high interest.

I ask you, upon your oath, did not you look upon the gentlemen of the town, constituting the corporation and the drapers company, for repayment of the expences you have incurred upon the occasion?

Yes, I do expect it; I am in hopes of it.

If the gentlemen of the town, who supported Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, came themselves, and told you they would not have repaid the whole of the expences, would you have incurred that expence?

Yes; I would, for they did tell me I should never be paid.

Then they had said something to you?

Yes.

Who were they?

Friends; people that I had been in the habit of conversing with; I was determined to persevere, if it had been almost the ruin of me.

And you relied on the circumstance that you had been paid before?

Yes; I said I did not think they would let be ruined by my interference.

Do you recollect a Mr. Clarke, who lives in Aldermanbury?

Yes.

He managed the London votes?

Yes.

Have you any doubt about it?

I have heard say so.

Have you heard him say so?

No; I have had no communication with Mr. Clarke at all.

You never was at his house during the election?

I was once.

What brought you there then?

I was going to Coventry, and I asked if he had any letter to send.

You was not going to Portsmouth, was you?

No.

Did you intend to go to Portsmouth?

No.

Did you ever apply to him for money to go to Portsmouth?

Never, for a farthing.

Upon that, or any other occasion?

No; nor any other person.

Do you know Thomas Orton?

I know a man of the name of Orton.

Living in Spital Fields?

I do not know him.

He is a Coventry man, not a freemen?

I do not know him.

A person who acted to collect London voters, in the interest of Messrs. Barlow and Jefferys?

No; I do not know the man; if I was so see him, I might know him; but I do not know that I ever saw him.

Did Mr. Clarke say any thing to you about a former election costing a great deal of money?

No; I never was in his house but once.

Did he say any thing about the election?

I don't recollect that he did; it rained hard, and I went to borrow an umbrella.

You had some previous acquaintance with him then?

Yes; I knew him very well.—I never had any transactions with him.

During the time you went to borrow an umbrella, had you any conversation with him.—It was during the election?

It was.

And you was going to Coventry?

I was either going to Coventry, or to write to Coventry?

Had you any conversation with him about the election?

Not that I recollect.

Had you any conversation about going to Portsmouth?

I am sure I had not.

Did he say any thing about the expences of the election?

I don't recollect that he did.

Will you say that he did not?

I don't remember it, for I did not enter into any discourse with him.

Did you see Butler at Mr. Clarke's?

Yes; I saw a boy.

Did you see Whitwell?

I think the boy rose to run up to me.—I think he ran up to me in the street.

Was you near Aldermanbury when you wanted an umbrella?

Yes; I think I was at the Swan with two Necks.

Then you went to Clarke's to borrow an umbrella?

Yes; my daughter was with me, and we had not an opportunity of sending it back, and she took it down to Coventry.

Had Mr. Clarke the management of the London votes?

I have heard say so.

Of your own knowledge?

No; I have heard people say that they went to Mr. Clarke's, and he would not give them any thing, and they had gone to pawn their clothes to come down.

You did hear that people went to him for directions?

Yes.

Do you know any thing about the Hoxton coffee-house?

Yes.

Do you know of your own knowledge of Mr. Clarke giving any directions to Mr. Jones the master of that house?

No.

Was you ever there yourself?

Never but once.

What did you see there?

I went there to look for freemen, and when I went I did not find any body.

Will you swear you do not know that Mr. Clarke was an active person in sending down the votes to Coventry?

I know nothing but by report.

Question repeated.

I do not know that he was.

Will you swear you did not know that he was?

I cannot swear to it.

Did you pick up any votes yourself in London when you came from Coventry?

Yes; may be thirty or more.

Did you bring them to the Hoxton coffee-house?

No; I never took them to the Hoxton coffee-house in my life; I took them to the coaches.

Did you take them to Mr. Clarke's?

Never.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Clarke about going to Portsmouth?

Never.

Did you never ask him for any money to go to Portsmouth?

Never.

The evidence of Orton read to the witness.

Mr. Clarke did not tell you it might cost the gentlemen as much as it did upon a former election—Ten thousand pounds?

Never.—I never had any intention of going to Portsmouth—I never had any conversation with him about it. I posted it seven or eight nights, and never was in bed, and did not get to Coventry time enough to poll myself; the election was over.

When did you first hear that the corporation had subscribed to pay the expences of the election?

Mr. Jefferys put in an advertisement that he declined coming, as his affairs would not admit of it, and the gentlemen opened a subscription.

I am talking of the corporation: when did you hear that the corporation had subscribed any money towards the election?

I never heard them say any thing about it.—I have heard that the corporation meant to subscribe some thing.

When a subscription of money is made, is there not a council called?

Yes.

Do you know whether there was a corporation council called for that purpose?

I never heard that there was.

Has the mayor power to subscribe money out of the fund of the corporation?

The gifts of the corporation they cannot—but their own private estates they can dispose of; and they never ask us what they shall do with it.

Who do you mean by they?

The mayor and aldermen.

You admit that you was very actively employed during the election?

Yes.

You had heard that Mr. Clarke was active too in procuring the London votes?

Yes.

You was in London in a course of looking after votes during the election?

Yes.

How was it that you had no conversation with him about the election?

I did not think him a fit man for an electionary purpose.

How long did you stay in London?

I don't recollect I ever was in London two days together; when I got a number of votes I took them down, and came up again.

Did you want money during the election?

I did not.

Had you any private banker of your own to whom you might have applied for money if you had wanted it in London?

No; I had many acquaintances in London, that I dare say I could have had the loan of twenty or thirty pounds at any time.

The witness ordered to withdraw.

Mr. Shore proposed adding to the poll the names of three persons called in Coventry mushrooms.

And first Thomas Fitch.

THOMAS FITCH, *called in and sworn.*

Was you at the last election at Coventry?

Yes.

Did you offer to poll?

I did.

Was your name taken down?

No; they objected to it—they said I never was enrolled.—I went up the lane, which is usual, for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore; they had two lanes.

Did you go up that lane with a view of giving your vote to Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

Yes.

Did you ever vote in Coventry before?

Yes, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, at the time I was made free. I have been down twice; I went down in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four; and the election was over when I got there.—I was applied to go down in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety; and news came when I was at the inn, to set off, that there was no occasion for any further assistance.

Who sent you down in one thousand, seven hundred and ninety?

I went down in the corporation interest.

Who did you vote for in one thousand seven hundred and eighty?

Mr. Hallifax and Mr. Rogers.

Cross examined.

Your vote was struck off by the committee?

Yes.

Do you know why you was struck off?

It was reported that it was on account of being sworn after the writs were out.

The entry on the poll book read.

"Thomas Fitch rejected as a mushroom."

The enrollment stamp referred to, from which it appeared, that on the twenty-fourth June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, Thomas Fitch was disfranchised by his own consent; and also that a number of other persons appeared upon the same roll to be disfranchised by their own consent.

Thomas Fitch was called for the purpose of shewing that he did not consent to his disfranchisement.

Did you ever consent to be disfranchised from your freedom of Coventry subsequent to the year 1780?

Question objected to.

The Court cleared.

The Committee deliberate.

Determined—That the question cannot be put to the witness.

The Court summed up the evidence on behalf of the petitioners.

Adjourned till Monday morning, Ten o'clock.

Monday, March 7, 1803.

FRANCIS DICKENS, *Esq. in the Chair.*

Mr. Knowley's opened the case of the sitting members.

JAMES SINCLAIR, *called in and sworn.*

Are you a barrister?
I am a barrister at law.
How long have you been a barrister at law?
Nearly two years.
You were at Coventry at the last election?
I was.
While you were there, were you at all talked of as Mr. Barlow's brother?
Yes; some of the people in Coventry took me for a brother, some people understood me te be so, I never declared myself his brother; I was an intimate friend of Captain Barlow's.
At any time during the election, did you make any promise to any person respecting his vote?
No promise whatever to any man.
Did you at any time, shew to any man at Coventry, ten guineas, to induce him to give a vote at that election?
Not a sixpence; or any sum of money.
Did you ever give any man ten guineas, or any other sum of money to promise his vote at that election?
Not any sum of money.
Examined.
Do you know a man of the name of Oughton?
I do not recollect him, he spoke to me in the

Hall, and I should not have known him if he had not told me his name.

And perhaps you do not recollect having seen him at Coventry?

I do not recollect having seen him there.

You saw a great number of men of that description at Coventry?

Yes; I saw a great number I should not know again.

Do you remember the Wednesday before the Saturday, on which the poll closed, meeting any persons in the morning, this Oughton being one of them, do you recollect meeting two persons?

I have no recollection of it, I met a great number, I dare say.

Do you recollect going down the lane and speaking with any man?

No.

Can you venture to state you did not?

It is possible, but I do not recollect it; I do not believe I did.

I do not know whether you had an opportunity of being at any public houses where the voters were?

I was at some houses, I shook hands with some out-voters that came from London, whom I understand came to vote for Mr. Barow, I solicited his friends for him.

And among the rest went to his house to keep them in good humour?

Yes; just so.—I am a perfect stranger in Coventry.—I was chiefly at the King's Head, and the White Bear, where the London voters generally come; when they came, I generally spoke with them, and solicited them for their interest for Captain Barlow.

Did you ever in the name of Captain Barlow give any orders for their accommodation?

None.

Were you ever present when any orders were given by Captain Barlow or Mr. Jefferys?

None; I never knew him give any orders.

Was Captain Barlow with you at any of those times?

No; except the King's Head, and the White Bear dinner, I dined with the friends of Captain Barlow, generally every day.

The witness ordered to withdraw?

FRANCIS OUGHTON, *called in and sworn.*

Were you a voter at Coventry at the last election?

Yes.

Who did you poll for at the that election?

Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

Do you recollect what day you polled?

Either Thursday or Friday, I cannot say which.

The last Thursday or Friday of the poll?

Yes.

Do you know a gentleman who passed for Captain Barlow's brother?

Yes.

Do you know Joseph Kirkland?

Yes.

Did you do business for him ever?

I have taken out a barrel of oysters for him, or a cod-fish.

Do you remember having any conversation with a gentleman they called Captain Barlow's brother, shortly before you polled, or any day during the poll?

I do not.

Did you any day during the poll, see him with any money in his hand?

Never.

Did he at any time during the poll, offer you any money, or shew you any money?

No; I never saw any at all.

Did he ever at any time, offer you ten guineas?

He did not.

Do you know if you were possessed of ten guineas in gold, at any time during the election?

I was not.

On any day during that election, did you bring any gold in your hand, and shew it to Kirkland?

No; I did not.

Did you on any day during that election, or any time, shew any money to Kirkland, as money you had received for your vote?

I never did.

Cross examined.

Do you know Kirkland, what is he?

A fishmonger.

What do you mean by taking out a barrel of oysters; have you done it for him as a servant, or as a friend?

He is a friend.

He never employed you to do it?

No; he might have given me half a pint of ale.

Never employed you to work for him?

He has before now given me a sixpence now and then.

You have worked for him?

Yes.

Then you are a person he sometimes employed to do little offices for him, and he paid you for so doing?

Yes; when I had done my own work I went to his house, and if a gentleman came with an

order, and there was nobody to take it out for him, I did it.

Was it not the constant habit for you to do that for him, to do that for him what he had not an opportunity of doing himself, carrying out goods?

He never sent for me.

Did you not go for the purpose of being so employed?

No, I did not go on purpose; only to call upon him and see him.

Did you frequently go to his house to see him?

No.

Every day?

No.

How many times a week might you have gone for the last month?

Perhaps not once in a week; sometimes once, and sometimes not at all.

Not more than once a week?

Yes; sometimes twice or three times.

When you did go that was your employment?

No; I was never employed for that.

What business are you?

A cordwainer.

Do remember the time of the polling at the last election?

Yes.

Do you remember seeing Kirkland at any time during that election?

I saw him at his house.

Only at his house?

I saw him at his house, and no where else that I know of.

Do you recollect the Wednesday before the poll finished, standing at the door of William Newbold?

I do not.

You were not at Newbold's door at all?

No.

Do you know Newbold?

Yes.

You was not there conversing with Kirkland?

No.

Had you, during the poll, any conversation with Kirkland about the election?

Yes; several times.

Where did conversations chiefly take place?

At his own house.

Then you was there several times during the poll?

Yes; I think I was.

How many times do you think?

I cannot justly say; sometimes once or twice, in the course of the week.

Not more than that?

No.

You conversed with him several times; what do you mean by several, once or twice only?

Yes.

Did you ever ask Kirkland who he should poll for?

He is not a freeman.

Did you ever ask him?

No; he is not a freeman.

I ask you upon your oath, whether you did or not ask him, though he is not a freeman?

No; I did not.

That never happened?

It never happened.

You never said if you had been a freeman, this is the time to make your money; or words to that effect?

I do not recollect.

Did you not say, what a pity it is, now is the time to make your money, or to that effect; will you swear you did not?

No; I will not swear that I did not.

Then for any thing that you remember, you might have said so?

I cannot say.

Question repeated.

I might; I cannot say that I did.

That may bring to your mind, perhaps, the circumstances that took place at Newbold's door?

No; it does not.

Was you not at Newbold's door on the Thursday preceeding the Saturday that the poll finished?

I was not.

Was you at Newbold's door with Kirkland, when a gentleman came up to you, and desired to speak to you about the election during the time of the poll?

No.

You polled on the Thursday or Friday?

Yes.

Do you recollect which?

No.

Did you ever go up to the lane where they polled from, before the day you polled?

No.

That you are sure of?

Yes.

Had you not eleven guineas during the time of the poll?

No.

Never was possessed of ten guineas?

No.

Did you ever at Kirland's during the time of the poll, take out any money, and shew him?

No.

You never shewed him any money?

Never.

That you swear?

Yes.

Who asked you to poll for Barlow and Jefferys; who applied to you?

Nobody applied to me, I went voluntarily.

That you swear to, that nobody asked you for your vote?

No; neither of the members.

Did any body ever ask you of any description?

No.

You never was asked for your vote?

No; I gave my vote voluntarily.

Was you ever asked for your vote during that election?

Never.

Nobody ever solicited you?

Nobody ever solicited me.

Did you know Captain Barlow before?

No, I did not; I saw him in the street, or the booth.

You voted for him?

Yes.

What induced you to vote for Captain Barlow?

I had no inducement at all, I volunteered it?

What was your reason for voting for him?

I had no view at all.

Had you no reason for voting for one more than another?

No.

Had you any reason whatever?

No.

You never was asked by any body to vote;

and you went voluntarily the last day but one to vote?

Yes.

Members:—Do you keep a shop as a shoe-maker?

No, I do not keep a shop, I do bespoke work.

You are a journeyman shoe-maker then?

No; when a gentleman gives me an order I execute it.

How long have you known Kirkland?

About a dozen years.

What sort of a man is he with respect to character?

I cannot say; he bears a pretty good character, I believe.

Does he bear a good or bad character?

A very good character, I believe.

Did you ever hear any reflections cast upon his character?

Yes; some call him a jipper, and some one thing and some another.

What do you call a jipper?

Taking people in.

Witness withdrew.

Edmund Wm. Piercy, called in and sworn.

I believe you are a silk-man, at Coventry?

I am.

You were a warm friend, I believe, of Capt. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

I was a decided friend, certainly.

Were you at the White Bear, on the Thursday, I think, of the election, when a chaise came from Leicester?

I was at the White Bear every day, during the election.

Do you recollect a chaise coming into the yard, which brought Swaine with some other voters from Leicester?

I recollect a chaise coming with Leicester voters.

Did you, upon hearing a chaise arrive, go down?

I did very soon after; but not immediately.

At the time you heard the chaise arrive and went down, where was Capt. Barlow?

In the room where we usually dined; when the chaise first arrived, I was finishing reading to Capt. Barlow, the speeches of Mr Bird and Mr. Moore, which I had taken down; and as soon as I had finished the speeches I ran down stairs to see who were come in the chaise.

Did Captain Barlow follow you, or remain behind?

He remained behind.

Did you see who were the persons who arrived in that Chaise?

No; I cannot speak positively to the persons of the men; I am sure Swaine was one, from seeing him afterwards.

Before you saw him, had Captain Barlow come down stairs at all?

Certainly not; when I went down stairs I met the chaise in which these voters had come, going down the yard; I turned to the left and saw the men that they told me were the voters, with a man of the name of Pickard and Marson; of them I enquired where the voters had come from, they said from Leicester; I asked them how many in number, and they said four: that was the whole that passed: then upon this, I went back to the room which I had before left, to com-

municate to Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys, and their friends, that four voters had come from Leicester, and then sat down to dinner, and heard no more of these Leicester voters for an hour or an hour and a half.

Had Captain Barlow remained in the room all that time?

Yes; I sat very near him, held conversation with him, and he asked me who the persons were that came in the chaise; I told him I did not know who they were, but I understood they were four voters from Leicester.

When did you afterwards see him?

In about an hour or an hour and an half, to the best of my recollection, Marson came into the room.

In consequence of what Marson said, did you go and see Swaine?

I did.

When you saw Swaine, in what state was he?

He was certainly drunk, as far as my sense of drunkeness goes; it was with vast difficulty he could articulate, and was then drinking; I said the wife of Swaine was come for the purpose of taking him away; and it was evident that she appeared to be contrary to our interest; and I said to him, come my good fellow, you are for Barlow and Jefferys. He called out loudly, that he was, as well as he could articulate; he had some brandy and water, and drank Barlow and Jefferys.

Did you keep him in sight till you left the inn?

No.

Was the wife there when you first saw him?

Yes; when I first saw him in the room, I said my good woman you see the state in

which he is, you had better not take him away for here is a good bed;—we were then in a good bed-room, I said you had better sleep here; she then said, no you shall not bottle my husband up. I said no my good woman, we have no such idea: then he drank again. Finding I had little or no influence upon the woman to prevail upon her to stay, I went out and returned to the room which I have first stated to you.

Did you see Mr. Carter at all?

I saw Mr. Carter as I was coming out of the bed-room that I have described. I met Mr. Carter going into the room, I met him in the passage, between the two rooms, and therefore I cannot say where he was going, he was coming from the room in which we had dined, to which I returned.

Did you see whether he went to Swaine or not?

I cannot speak to that

Did you see Swaine come along?

I did not; I neither saw nor heard more of Swaine afterwards; then the same man that said the woman is taking him away, said the man is gone.

Were Pickard and Marson with him all this time?

Yes.

You are sure Captain Barlow did not go down to him, when the chaise came in?

I left him in the room, and found him there when I came back.

Did the man, while you were with him, shew the least disinclination to vote for Capt. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys?

Certainly not; as well as a man in his state could articulate; every time he drank, he

drank to the health of Captain Barlow and Mr. Jefferys.

What time did they arrive?

Between the hours of four and five, to the best of my knowledge.

Are you sure of that?

I did not carry a time piece during any part of the election.

But you carried a head piece; upon your oath, was it not after six;—may you not be mistaken in that?

I may; but I had a particular reason for the time of the close of the poll that day; and going to the place where Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore were, and taking down their speeches, the usual hour of dining was five.

What time did the poll close?

Generally about three; I think sometimes it was as late as five, but it was not at the precise time; I was not in the booth every day.

Do you know how many hours by law, the poll is bound to be taken?

I do not.

Do you know at what time the poll commenced, on any one day?

I think nine o'clock.

Are you sure it was not ten?

I cannot be sure, I think it was nine.

You will not swear it was ten?

I will not.

Suppose they should begin polling at ten, and poll seven hours, at what hour would the poll close?

Five.

After that, as you had had the trouble of writing down these gentlemen's speeches, had been to the house were you were to dine, had

been reading to the company those speeches, if the poll did not close till five, what time might it be when the chaise arrived?

After taking down the speeches I went and read them; and to the best of my recollection it was not six; I am not sure whether I read both the speeches, or whether I had read only one, or one and a part of the other.

You said before, you stopped to finish before you went down?

I cannot recollect whether I stopped to finish both, or whether it was only one I stopped to finish.

The wife of Swaine was there when you first went into the room?

Yes.

Was the woman sober?

Yes.

Was the man so drunk as not to understand you, when you asked him about polling?

He was not so drunk as that certainly.

Then you think the application you made to me, to poll for these two gentlemen, he was led to understand?

No doubt of it.

Did you see any supper going on at that house?

I do not recollect seeing any thing but drinking.

Was that in the bed room?

Yes.

Who were in the bed-room besides?

A man of the name of Pickard, and a man whose name I have since understood is Marson.

Was any body else there?

Yes; Mr. Vale was there I cannot recol-

lect any body else, it was a very small room, there might be others there, but I did not know them.

Then all that passed was in the hearing of all those persons?

Yes.

After you had left that room and gone into the dinner room, from whence you found Mr. Carter coming out, do you know what passed between Mr. Carter and this man?

No; I do not know.

The witness ordered to withdraw?

George Marson called in and sworn.

You are a voter for Coventry?

Yes.

Was you at the White Bear on the first day of the poll, Thursday?

Yes.

Do you recollect a chaise coming in from Leicester?

Yes.

Was it the first day that Swaine came?

I will not be positive, it was on the Thursday, I believe.

Did you see the chaise door opened?

Yes.

You know Captain Barlow very well.

Yes, I do.

Was Captain Barlow at the door when the chaise door was opened?

No.

Were you by when Swaine came out?

I was.

Did you see what room he went into?

I did.

Was he at all out of your sight, from the

time of his getting out of the chaise till he got into the room?

No.

During that time was Captain Barlow near him, or speaking with him?

No; not during that time.

Did you keep company with him during the whole time he staid in the inn?

Yes; I was never out of his company any further than going out into the yard once; and then I suppose not more than two minutes.

During that time did you see Mr. Carter the attorney?

I did.

Did Mr. Carter come to him, or speak to him?

Yes; on the landing of the stairs.

Did you see Mr. Carter all the time he was with Swaine?

I did.

How long might he be with Swaine altogether?

It might be three or four minutes; I should think no further than shaking hands, and he wished him to go home as he was intoxicated with liquor.

If Mr. Carter had retired into a room with him, must you have observed it?

I must.

Did they go into another room, apart from other company?

No.

When you had them in sight, did Mr. Carter make him any offer of money?

No.

Nor produced any money to him?

No, he did not.

If he had, must you have seen him?

I must have seen him.

Was his wife by at the time he was on the landing place?

She was.

Was this man drunk or sober?

He was very much intoxicated.

Was he able to walk very well?

He did not walk very well; for I assisted him down stairs under the arm.

Did any body lend him any assistance to go down beside yourself?

Yes; William Pickard.

Was that necessary from the state he was in?

It was.

Did his liquor affect him in any way?

Yes; he vomited in the passage upon the landing of the stairs.

Was that in the presence of his wife?

Yes.

She must have seen it?

Yes; she must have seen it.

Did Mr. Carter return to him again at any time, besides those three or four minutes upon the landing place?

No; I saw him into the street, and he went away with his wife, and his brother's sister.

From the time Mr. Carter first saw him on the landing place, till he went away, did Mr. Carter return to him?

He did not.

If he had returned to him, must you have seen him?

Cross-examination.—I must.

You saw him all the time Mr. Carter was with him?

Yes.

And heard all that passed?

Yes.

What passed?

He wished to see Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow; he said he would not give his vote to any body but Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow; this was on the stairs, and Mr. Carter advised him to go home; he said he would not go till he saw them, then he went into the room and spoke to Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow, and they advised him to go home.

What did Mr. Jefferys and Mr. Barlow say to him?

The conversation that passed there was, I believe, that he was come as a voter; he shook hands with them and parted; I do not know of any particular conversation.

Was t his in the room where they dined?

Yes.

How long after dinner?

I suppose about three quarters of an hour.

And he insisted upon going in?

Yes.

Mr. Percy went in with him, and took him in?

Yes.

Mr. Percy introduced this drunken man, and said, this is the man that wants to shake hands with you?

Yes.

Do you remember his wife going to the door?

She came to the door.

Do you remember Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys saying any thing about her coming?

No.

Nor Mr. Percy?

No.

Then they shook hands?

Yes.

And then you parted?

Yes.

Did you see him when he first arrived?

Yes.

What time was it?

Between four and five.

You were first in the room below, a back parlour?

Yes.

Do you remember having a large bowl of brandy and water?

Yes.

What did you say about his not drinking?

I don't remember any thing that I said.

Did any body else say any thing about his not drinking?

No.

You remember a large bowl of brandy and water?

Yes.

What are you?

A weaver.

What do you do in Coventry?

I weave.

Upon your oath, are you not a bailiff follower?

I am at times.

Do you follow that for pleasure?

Yes.

Are you not employed at the public office of Mr. Carter?

I am.

A bailiff's follower is not quite so much wanted in the country as in town?

No; it would not support me.

How long have you been in town.

A fortnight last Friday?

Have you not been here from the first of this petition?

I arrived last Friday night was a fortnight.

Did you come up by a subpœna?

Yes.

Court.—You live at Coventry?

Yes.

Was you often at the White Bear?

Yes; I was there every day to protect Mr. Grimes's property during the election.

Withdrew.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

JOHN DRAYSON, *called in and sworn.*

Where do you live?

At Dunchurch.

You keep a public-house there?

The Star.

Your house is opposite Shaws?

It is not far from it.

Do you recollect a few days before the close of the poll, seeing Clarke the last witness at your house?

Yes.

Did any thing pass respecting a debt of Shaw's to you?

Yes; Mr. Hume was anxious for Shaw giving Mr. Bird his vote.

Who is Mr. Hume?

He lives within a mile of Dunchurch.—He is a gentleman of good fortune.

Who did he marry?

He married Mrs. Bird's sister.

He was anxious for Mr. Bird?

He was; he told Shaw if he would vote for Mr. Bird, he would make him a very handsome present.

Was you present at this?

Yes; I was.

Did any thing pass, and what between you and Clarke respecting a debt of Shaw's?

No, nothing particular; the business between Shaw and Mr. Hume—Mr. Hume asked Shaw what he would expect to receive if he gave Mr. Bird his vote; and Mr. Hume said he knew there was a book debt owing to me for hops and other things, to the amount of seven pounds, nine shillings.

What answer did Shaw make to that?

He said if he would pay the book debt, he would give Mr. Bird his vote, it was for a

pocket of hops, and some other things; I was then out of the room for some time after; and Mr. Hume desired me to place that money to his account.

Was Mr. Shaw present?

Yes, he was.

Were Tipson and Mr. Hume together at your house that day?

They were several times together, and he was repeatedly over at Shaw's own house as well.

Was any thing done with your books, and what?

I placed that seven pounds nine shillings to Mr. Hume's account immediately from his own order.

Did Mr. Clarke ever come to your house?

He was backwards and forwards repeatedly, but nothing particular between him and me upon that business.

Was any thing done in the booth, by which it was charged to Shaw?

It was a chalk score in the bar, it was never down in the book; I entered it in the book to Mr. Hume; the hops were six pounds, two shillings, and the rest was for what I told you.

When was it that you placed this to the account of Mr. Hume?

I do not know; it must have been near the close of the poll: I should think the 13th or 14th of July, I cannot exactly say, it was at a time when they considered a vote the most valuable which must be towards the latter end of the time, I should expect.

Carriages of each party came to your house?

Mr. Bird's party were there; some on both sides: we were obliged to borrow for one

one another, and sometimes the parties would come and order them themselves.

Which party used your house?

Mr. Bird's.

You did not receive the money at that time?

No, I did not, I charged it to Mr. Hume.

This never had been charged to Shaw?

Not as a book debt, but it was chalked in the bar.

No.

How long was it before this, that he had the hops?

To the best of my knowledge, he had the hops in the month of March.

This conversation I understand was in July?

Yes.

Do you keep books?

Yes.

So that from March till July, one article of seven pounds, nine shillings, was never charged to any body, but by a chalk in the bar?

No.

Had you any particular reason for omitting it?

The person I received them from, I had an account with, and it was put up in his account; so that would shew the weight, and what the hops cost.

These hops you bought without any others?

Yes, they came single from Worcester.

There were some other trifling articles: were they charged in a book?

They stood on the score board.

How happened you not to charge them?

We did not do it; it was omitted by some means or other.

Can you recollect any reason for it?

None; it was negligence rather than any thing else.

Had you any one man that you dealt with for articles whom you did not charge besides Shaw?

Yes, several; we make memorandums on the score board.

Do they amount to six pounds or seven pounds?

No.

Had you many people who had trifling things of you to the amount of one pound seven shillings, without charging it?

Yes; trusses of hay and oats.

Being small articles that you were not likely to remember, you thought it better not to put them down?

We already recollected the sums.

When did the conversation between Mr. Hume and you take place?

It took place I believe when it was getting near to a conclusion.

What was getting near to a conclusion?

The election.

Was the first conversation you had with Mr. Hume, about the close of the election?

Yes, I believe there were three days elapsed before it was finally fixed for Mr. Hume to settle this debt for him.

Was there no conversation before that?

No, we were all in such a bustle.

Was there any body else present when Mr. Hume said he understood there was a book debt due to him, and that he would pay for that?

I cannot say whether Tipson was or not.

Are you sure you was present?

I was present.

Mr. Hume said there is a book debt I will give you that if you will vote for Mr. Bird?

He used those very words.

Then for this debt he sold his vote?

Yes.

Did Shaw agree to that?

Yes.

That was the price then seven pounds, nine shillings?

Yes; but whether there was any thing else given, I cannot tell; after Mr. Hume addressed me to put it to his account, I left the room.

So far the bargain was complete?

Yes, he said I will make Shaw a present of this debt to vote for Mr. Bird.

Then as far as you know, it was settled that he was to vote for Mr. Bird?

He went the next morning.

You put it down to Mr. Hume?

Yes.

Was there nobody with you when you put it down to Mr. Hume?

No.

Have you your book here?

No, it is in Long Acre.

(The book sent for.)

As soon as you had left them, you put it down to Mr. Hume?

Yes.

Nobody was with you when you put it down in your book?

I dare say not.

Had Tipson settled any thing with you as to the terms of Shaw's voting?

He was in and out of the room repeatedly.

Did he himself take upon him to do any thing with you?

No, I do not recollect any thing of that; he paid me some money for his own expences, and I think two others of his own party.

Had Clarke any transaction with you about it?

He brought a paper acknowledging that that debt was to be discharged.

When was that: was it when you had put it to his account?

I have been trying to recollect ever since I have been in London, and cannot, whether I signed any paper or not; if it was any thing it must be a discharge for that debt.

There might have been a receipt talked of; but you cannot recollect whether you signed it or not?

I cannot think there was any thing signed.

Perhaps there was no such paper?

I recollect some thing about the paper.

Was there any such paper?

I recollect something of a paper; I don't think it was signed.

There might be various papers at the time of an election, when men are wanting directions on letters, and so on: I ask you if there was such a paper?

I cannot recollect.

Was the paper stamped?

I do not recollect.

Then there was no paper?

I think there was a paper, but I have no recollection.

Have you had any conversation with Clarke since you have been in London?

Not a word; I never saw him till I saw him at this door within these two hours.

Have you never had any conversation with Shaw since about the hops?

He said the hops were of a very indifferent quality, and he was likely to lose by them.

Was he not to try how they turned out before he was to pay for them, upon your oath?

No; I fixed the price.

Was there not something of this sort, that after they were used he was to pay you according as they turned out?

Yes.

Then there was such a reason existing?

It was a conditional price.

Whether they turned out good or bad, you was to pay accordingly?

It was a low price four pounds—I dare say they were worth that to him.

That may account for your not putting them down in the book?

It might; I bought them of a man of the name of Evans, and his account was put upon the same way.

If any body has said, that you not only had it in your book charged to Shaw; but that when the thing was settled, you took a pen, and crossed it out of your book: is that true?

No, that is not true.

You not only did not scratch it out, but it is not in your book at all?

It is not.

Then that is untrue?

Yes.

You having received your directions from Mr. Hume himself, did not wait till any body came to tell you to do it?

No, I charged it to Mr. Hume's account.

Directly while they were at your house?

Yes, I dare say I did.

Was any body else in the room at that time?

I cannot positively say, Mr. Tipson might be there, I cannot say whether he was or not.

Was Clarke of the party when Mr. Hume made that offer?

Clarke was backwards and forwards, ripping and tearing about; I cannot say.

Do you remember if Mr. Clarke was in the room while this offer was made openly?

No.

Was Clarke with you when you entered Mr. Hume's account into the book?

I should think not.

Recollect yourself?

I cannot positively remember that I considered it a done thing with respect to Shaw, after I had received this order.

Have you been paid for these hops?

I am perfectly satisfied.

Have you received the price for them?

I have not been paid—if it was fifty pounds, I should be satisfied.

You know Mr. Hume perfectly well?

Yes.

You would have difficulty in trusting him?

No.

Small articles that you dealt with your neighbours for, you don't always enter in a book?

I do not.

You say you put not only the hops, but all the articles up to Mr. Hume?

And Shaw was no longer your debtor?

No.

Not for the hay, no more than the other things?

I don't recollect exactly what the articles were.

Is it true that you ever asked him for the money for the hay since?

No.

Has any body ever applied to you to set it right as if it had been asked for?

No.

Have you ever had any occasion by any application, or by any conversation, either with Shaw, or any body from Shaw, to explain that you meant no longer to demand it of him?

I understand that from the first; I never heard of it since.

Then nobody has been with you to set it right?

No.

When was the chalked account rubbed out?

Seven or eight weeks before the election, we retained one pound seven in our memories.

What were the acts you saw Mr. Hume doing with respect to these voters?

He was particularly anxious to serve Mr. Bird; and in consequence of that, he was very unhappy that Mr. Bird was likely to lose his election. He came to me several times, and said, if any thing could be done for Mr. Bird he should be very happy.—I believe Shaw was the only voter he got at Dunchurch.

Was Mr. Hume at your house upon occasion of the voters coming down?

Yes, he was repeatedly at our house.

Can you speak of any other acts of his?

No, I do not know of any other single thing.

Members.—You have told us Clarke came out of the house frequently while this business was going forward about Shaw's vote?

He did.

Can you take upon yourself to say whether Clarke was or was not present at the time when you entered Shaw's debt to Mr. Hume's account?

I cannot say positively to that, he might be present, or he might not.

Did Clarke know that you put the seven pounds to Mr. Hume's account.

Yes; he knew that I dare say, because I should suppose Shaw would immediately tell him as soon as he left the room.

You talked something about a paper; you do not know whether you signed it or not: what paper was that?

As well as I can recollect, it was the size of receipts in general.

Who had the paper?

Clarke had the paper in his hand.—I can remember speaking about it, but not the particulars.

Did he ask you to sign it as a receipt?

I cannot recollect; Mrs. Drayson and I both puzzled ourselves about it before I left home.

Was Tipson frequently backwards and forwards?

He was.

Was he in the room at the time Mr. Hume desired you to put it to his account?

Yes.

Are you positive he was well acquainted with the transaction?

Yes, I should think he was.

Did Shaw go over to your house during that time?

He was backwards and forwards.

Had you any conversation with Shaw respecting the transaction?

I told Shaw if he would vote for Mr. Bird it would give me great pleasure.

Did you tell Shaw that if he would vote for Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore, that in that case Mr. Hume had desired you to place the seven pounds to his account?

That was named by all of us no doubt.

Did you tell Shaw, Mr. Hume had desired you to place the seven pounds to his account, if he voted for Mr. Bird?

We all understood that perfectly.

Do you know who he voted for?

For Mr. Bird.

Did you see Mr. Hume active for Mr. Bird, in any other instance but this one?

In no other than that one whatever.

Was he in Dunchcurch often during the election?

Yes; coming to enquire how matters went.

But you did not see him soliciting votes?

No.

Are there many freemen of Coventry living about Dunchurch?

I think there are very few.

Do you recollect any of them?

I do not think we have any more than Shaw in the town of Dunchurch.

Was Clarke ever sent by Shaw to enquire if that debt was done away?

He might be sent over to ask if the debt was removed, I cannot say.

Did Clarke come to you, to have it explained how the debt was done away?

I do not recollect that.

Have the goodness to try and recollect?

I do not recollect that he did.

Did you ever shew Clarke the book after you

had made the entry in it, transferring it to Mr. Hume?

I cannot recollect; I do not know that I did, and I do not know that I did not: I considered myself so safe in making Mr. Hume my debtor, that I do not recollect any thing about it.

I understand you to say, you remember Clarke had to do with the transaction of this settlement; he was in and out?

He was in and out repeatedly.

Should you have shewn Clarke the book if he had asked you?

Yes, I should.

Did you make the entry and debt Mr. Hume, with it at the time of the election?

I cannot say; there is no date in the book: I know I put it down directly, but whether in this book or not I do not know; I might have removed it from one to the other afterwards.

At the day of the election there was no entry against Shaw, either in your books or upon your score boards?

Not upon that account.

Was there upon any other account?

No.

Withdrew.

Charles Mann, called in and sworn.

You keep the Dolphin in Coventry, I believe?

Yes.

For which party was that house open at the last election?

I had both parties came to the house by times.

Which party came most to your house?

Mr. Bird's party.

What persons came to your house, friends of Mr. Bird, during the poll?

Freemen and other men.

Did the freemen come often to your house, in the course of the poll?

They ran backwards and forwards, it was just opposite the booth.

Had they any thing to drink at your house?

Yes.

Who paid for it?

It is not all of it paid for now.

Was there any not paid for, by the freemen at the time?

Yes.

How much in the whole is not paid for?

In all 130l. odd shillings.

How much have you been paid?

I cannot tell what; I was paid by people coming and drinking and paying at the time.

Were the sums paid greater or less, than what is due?

I was not paid so much as that.

Was you paid for a fourth part?

I cannot say.

Will you swear that the meat and drink you was paid for, was worth twenty pounds?

I did not keep an account of the money I received.

Can you swear it was twenty pounds?

I cannot.

Do you believe it to be less?

I cannot pretend to say.

One hundred and thirty pound of meat and drink was used by freemen, if I undersand you, in your house during the election, for which you are now unpaid?

Yes; there abouts.

Have you given any bill into any body, for that sum?

There has been no bill given to Mr. Bird's friends; I did give a bill to a person of the name of Keane.

Who is Keane?

A person in Coventry.

Is he a freeman?

I believe he is, I am not certain.

In whose interest was Keane at the last election?

I cannot justly say in whose interest he was; I expect he was in the interest of Mr. Bird, I do not know to my own knowledge.

What was your reason for giving it to Keane?

I did not know who to give it to; he came to me and wished me to draw beer.

To draw beer for whom?

For people that he brought to the house.

What did he say?

He said he had no doubt but I should be paid.

For whom did he desire you to draw beer?

For the friends of Mr. Bird.

What day of the poll was this?

I am not particular about the days.

Was it on the first day of the poll?

I believe it was on the first day of the poll.

When did you deliver your bill to him?

I cannot justly tell.

Can you tell me within a month?

Sometime after the election was over, it was not a month, I dare say.

Was it a fortnight after the election was over?

I cannot pretend to say?

Was it at Keane's house that you delivered it?

No; it was at my own house.

Did he say any thing to you, before you delivered it to him?

I do not know that he did; I gave him the bill.

Did you say nothing when you gave it him?

I cannot recollect what passed.

Was you in prison for debt before the election?

Yes.

How long before the election?

About three weeks or a month, I will not be positive.

Did you give any meat or drink to any persons, who did not pay for it before the election?

Not after I was at home.

Was it quite three weeks?

I cannot be positive.

Can you be positive it was ten days?

Yes.

Can you be positive it was a fortnight?

I cannot tell.

Was you paid for any victuals and drink before you left prison?

No.

Is there any bill unpaid on that account?

No.

Was any such victuals and drink given in your house, to your knowledge?

There was none after I came home.

You are not a freeman yourself?

No

Do you know the time when the treats were given, before the parliament were dissolved?

There was some treats given; my house was not open.

It happened that your house was not opened for any treat?

No; the last treat I was at home.

You say you had a demand upon somebody for 130l. and you gave a bill of it to Keane?

Yes.

What is Keane's name?

Charles.

Not William Keane?

No.

Did Charles Keane take upon himself to give you orders, or was it only by persuasion of his own?

He persuaded me, he said, he thought, if I opened the house he had no doubt I should be paid.

Was not Keane the man you consulted upon the subject?

Yes.

Upon your application to him, he said yes, he thought if you opened your house you would be paid?

Yes.

Did he pretend to have any authority from Mr. Bird?

No.

Did any person come from Mr. Bird to induce that?

No.

Was it not a speculation in consequence of your circumstances, in hopes of getting something?

Entirely.

Did you receive in common, with all the public houses in Coventry, a paper like that?

[Shewing the witness a printed paper.]

I cannot say I received it; I heard there was such papers.

They did not employ you at all, I believe?

No, they did not.

But you had no communication with Mr. Bird or Mr. Moore, or any person pretending to come from them?

No.

Keane is a poor man?

Yes; he is a ribbon weaver.

Then your house was open entirely upon your own speculation?

Yes.

Members.—What induced you to give Charles Keane the amount of the bill, why should he be more interested than any body else?

Because he had persuaded me to draw beer, and I gave him the bill in hopes he would try and get me the money for it.

What did he say when you gave him the bill?

He said he would do what he could for me.

You said your's was a house opened for both parties?

I had both parties come at times as I was very near the booth.

How did you get victuals and drink to the amount of one hundred and thirty pounds?

I got credit for it; a friend of mine advanced some money for me.

What is his name?

Mr. Harris.

What is his Christian name?

Thomas.

What is he?

He is something in the shag manufactory.

Do you know any thing of this Thomas Harris?

Yes, I have known him several years.

He is a gentleman living at Coventry?

Yes.

Do you know whether he was an active friend of Mr. Bird and Mr. Moore?

He was a friend of Mr. Bird.—I did not see him active; I asked him if he would stand my friend in lending me some money, and he did.

Did you see Keane active in the election?

No.

Did Keane at all superintend the giving liquor at your house?

He was there by times.

Did he take any management?

He told me sometimes who to give liquor to.

Did you give any liquor to the friends of Mr. Barlow and Mr. Jefferys without paying for it?

Not to the best of my knowledge, I did not.

Withdrew.

John Drayson was again called in, and produced his book.

Have you looked over your book, and is there any such account?

I have, and there is not.

Withdrew.

Mr. Macintosh summed up the evidence on the part of the sitting members.

Adjourned.

Thurday 10th of March, 1803.

THOMAS MASON, *called in and sworn.*

As agent for the petitioners, on the Monday evening preceding the dissolution of Parliament, I went round to the public houses, where the freemen in the interest of the petitioners had been previously treated. To many of those houses I went myself, and left at each of those houses, copies of the extract made from the act, against treating; and gave directions to every one of them, on no account to draw any liquor after eleven o'clock. On that evening, I had previously carried two thousand copies to be printed off, and were generally distributed throughout Coventry.

After having so done, Sir, was (as far as your knowledge will enable you to say) any thing done by petitioners, to make them depart from that resolution?

I can only speak for myself, that I know nothing of any such practices having taken place, until after the poll closed; I then heard that liquor had been given away by publicans, and mentioned it to Mr. Bird.

Mr. Pigott rose to close the case of the petition, and submits his argument to the consideration of the court.

Adjourned.

Friday 11*th March*, 1803.

Committee met on the Coventry Election.

FRANCIS DICKENS, Esq. in the Chair.

[The room being clear.]

Committee deliberate.

Determined—That under the special circumstances of this case, the deposit of one thousand five hundred pounds by Captain Barlow, for the purposes of the election, was not contrary to law.

Determined—That no evidence having been adduced to this committee, of the misapplication of such deposit, Mr. Barlow has not offended against the statute of William the Third.

Final determinations of the committee.

Determined—That Francis William Barlow, Esq. is duly elected a citizen, to serve in this present Parliament, for the city of Coventry.

Determined—That Nathaniel Jefferys, Esq. not being qualified according to the provisions of an act passed in the ninth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, entituled "an Act for securing the Freedom of Parliament by the farther qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons," was not elected a citizen to serve in this present Parliament for the city of Coventry at the last election of citizens to represent the said city.

Determined—That the petitions of the said William Wilberforce Bird, Esq. and Peter Moore, Esq. did not appear to the said select committee to be frivolous or vexatious.

Determined—That the petition of the freemen of the said city of Coventry did not appear to the said select committee to be frivolous or vexatious.

Determined—That the opposition of the said Nathaniel Jefferys to the said petitions, did not appear to the said select committee to be frivolous or vexatious.

To report [5.]

Counsel called in, and acquainted therewith.

FINIS.

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